March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

JETS COMICS

3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

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9
羽海野チカ
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中学3年生のひなたは
自分の進路の事で悩んでいた。
やりたい事は分かっているのに
手を出してはいけない気がして…
そんな彼女を暖かく見守るひなたの家族と零。
一方、名人戦では宗谷名人の幼い頃からのライバル
土橋九段が宗谷と激闘を繰り広げていた。
いまだ宗谷に及ばない土橋を
懸命に支える彼の家族…。
本当に大事な人って誰ですか？
この命題を問いかけます。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく優しい物語です。

（平成25年9月刊行）

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message

Recent Photo of the Author's cat

羽海野チカ
Chica Umino

Wheeew. This sure is a cozy spot.
I love the feel of this paper,
especially this type that Mama uses
for manuscripts - it has the
best texture.
I'm a stickler for my materials so of
course I want to choose the best
paper for my naps!
Sometimes Mama tries to gently
move me off, but I'm not moving!
If I lower my standards I won't be
able to live the same high-quality
life!

March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン ⑨ 羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

ETS COMICS

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

⑨

羽海野チカ

白泉社

白泉社

March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学八段

9

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This is a work of fiction. There is no connection to actual people, groups, or events whatsoever.

Chapter 84

Summer Vacation ①

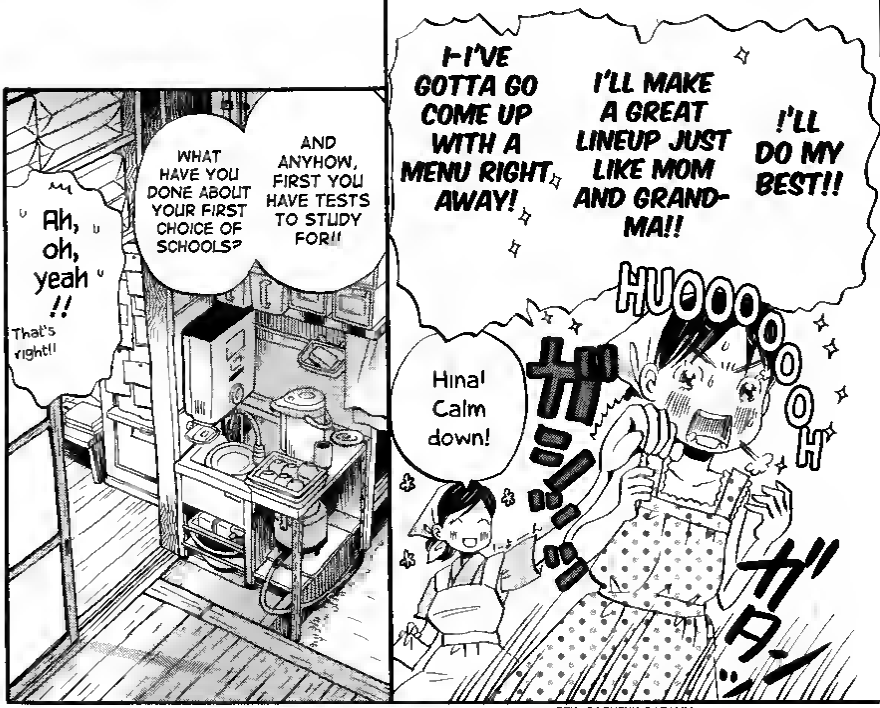
3月のライオン

Mangá criado por Chica Umino

I JUST LOVE THE SANGATSU TOWN FESTIVAL.
THAT WAS SO MUCH FUUUN...
WHEEEW
SFX: PHUUAN
SFX: MIIIN MIIEN MIIIN (CICADAS CHIRPING)
I'D SAY THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL 'GREAT PAINS BUT ALL IN VAIN.'
AFTER GETTING OURSELVES DRENCHED IN SWEAT LIKE THAT, THIS IS ALL THE NET PROFIT WE HAVE....
ACTUALLY, YOU TWO SET EVERYTHING TOO HIGH A PRICE AND GAVE TOO MUCH AWAY
SUCH A PITY!
THOUGH I WISH WE'D PREPARED MORE SYRUP
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED WE'D HAVE SOLD OUT BEFORE 8 O'CLOCK...
バチ
バチ
バチ

THOSE EYE-CATCHING GOODS REALLY ARE HUGE FOR BRINGING IN THE CUSTOMERS!
WE SOLD OUR STAPLE SWEETS REALLY WELL, TOO
THANKS TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE COMING
LIKE HOW IF A SUPERMARKET SAYS THEY HAVE MILK AT 128 YEN A CARTON, THAT GETS ME THERE ☆
Or something like them at 68 yen for 100 grams or 98 yen for a can of tomatoes
And then of course I'll end up buying other things!
----BUT
ALL THOSE CUSTOMERS
SHOWING UP IN DROVES
REALLY GETS MY BLOOD PUMPING
HMM
YOUR MOM AND GRANDMA
WERE REALLY PRETTY GOOD
WHEN IT CAME TO BUSINESS
THEY ALWAYS HAVE A LINEUP
FOR SWEET THINGS, TO SOUR THINGS, AND ALL KINDS OF OTHER THINGS

I WAS THINKIN' HOW IMPORTANT THIS WAS DURING THE FESTIVAL..
I WANTED TA SHOW YOU TWO
I REMEMBER.
THE NYANKO-YAKI AND BONBORI-YAKI
THOSE BAGS WITH THE HUGE RIBBONS WERE SO CUTE.
T/N
NYANKO-YAKI = KITTY CAT GRILLED TREAT
BONBORI-YAKI = PAPER HAND LANTERN GRILLED TREAT
SHE ALWAYS USED TO SAY 'PUT IN THE EFFORT AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO SPEND ANY MONEY '
I USED TO HELP OUT BY PUTTING EVERYTHING IN BAGS
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN
YOU TWO DID PRETTY DARN GOOD FOR YOUR FIRST TIME
OF COURSE SALES AND THAT SORTA THING WERE GREAT,
BUT YOUR FINESSE AND INSIGHT STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO...
MM.
YOU'RE FREE TO TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR
HUUUH?
REALLY ?!
IT'S OKAY ?!


I-I'VE GOTTA GO COME UP WITH A MENU RIGHT AWAY!
I'LL MAKE A GREAT LINEUP JUST LIKE MOM AND GRAND-MA!!
I'LL DO MY BEST!!
HUoooooo
Hina! Calm down!
ガシッ
ガタン
AND ANYHOW, FIRST YOU HAVE TESTS TO STUDY FOR!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT YOUR FIRST CHOICE OF SCHOOLS?
Ah, oh, yeah!!
That's right!!

SFX: GASHIHH GATANN

TOMORROW IS YOUR SUMMER TESTING DAY. IT'S SUMMER VACATION, BUT STILL SCHOOL DAY, RIGHT?
DID YOU STUDY EVERYTHING YOU HAD TO?
Ah, yeah.
I think so? Er, I've just got a little left...
----Oh, right. Onei-chan,
what do we do about jelly?
HEHEHE
YOUR HANDS AREN'T MOVING!!
WRAP IT ALL UP QUICK-LY!!
I FEEL BAD FOR THE DORAYAKI!
三日月堂
Ah, okay!!
I'm sorry, Ojii-chan!

SFX: MIIIN MIIIN (CICACAS)
SFX: GAKU GAKU BURU BURU... (TREMBLING)
That's just too much for me!
I-I-I
I CANNNN'T!
I can't!! Me? Homeroom teacher for 3A?!! I really, really can't!!
I just can't!!
SFX ZAKU ZAKU BURU BURU (TREMBLE)
I, I HONESTLY DO NOT THINK I COULD GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH HER, YOU KNOW?
You've seen it, haven't you? The threatening attitude that Takagi mother takes?!
It's too heavy a burden!
AWAWA WAWA WAWA...
I'LL BE WITH YOU FOR NOW, TOO.
C'MON NOW. YOU'LL BE PERFECTLY FINE... Probably
YOU'RE ENTRUSTING A MIDDLE SCHOOL THIRD YEAR CLASS'S ALL-IMPORTANT LAST SEMESTER TO SOME THIS YOUNG?!
WH-WHAAAAAT?! A NEW HOMEROOM TEACHER...?
WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S OPINION ON THIS MATTER?!
SFX WAAHH
I CAN'T WATCH OVER 90 STUDENTS ALONE! AND I HAVE HEAD-OF-YEAR DUTIES ON TOP OF THAT!!
AND ANYHOW, IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE HOMEROOM TEACHER FOR 2 CLASSES!!
WELL IF YOU'RE A NEWBIE I'M AN OLDBIE!!
I CAN'T!! I'M STILL A NEWBIE HERE!!

AND...
THIS
TALK YOU HAD WITH TAKAGI... HOW LONG DID THIS GO ON FOR?
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
'GETTING THEM TO UNDER-STAND WHAT THEY DID'
IS PART OF OUR JOB.
...
AND YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME BUT.
THERE'S NO USE TALKING TO HER ANYMORE.
SHE'S DECIDED THAT SHE'S 'REFUSING'
TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT WHAT SHE'S DONE AT ALL
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THIS FAR?
IT'S RATHER ODD
WE'RE GIVING ALL THIS CLOSE ATTENTION TO 'THE PERSON THAT DID THE BOTHERING'.
AND SAKURA CHIHO, THE ONE THAT WAS BULLIED, NOT ONLY CHANGED SCHOOLS,
BUT SHE STILL ISN'T EVEN GOING TO SCHOOL WHERE SHE IS NOW, YOU KNOW?

AS NEW HOMEROOM TEACHER, I'LL LAY EVERYTHING OUT IN THE OPEN
HOW ABOUT I WRITE IT ON HER STUDENT REPORT?
KOMI-GAWA...
'SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND SHOWS A STRONG AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS'
'SHE TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLES IN GROUPS
AND CAUSES LARGE-SCALE PROBLEMS INSIDE CLASS'!!!
E-EVEN IF I TAKE HER AT HER WORD
THAT SHE REALLY DIDN'T PURPOSEFULLY ACT MALICIOUSLY
MEAN
AT THIS POINT
IT REALLY DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHETHER SHE HAD BAD INTENTIONS OR NOT!
—IF YOU CAUSE SOMETHING,
YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT!
THAT'S SOMETHING I FIRMLY BELIEVE!
SHE SHOULD PAY A PRICE!
—IF SHE DOESN'T

SFX: GARAH
ガラ
IT JUST WOULDN'T BE RIGHT, WOULD IT?!
HEY, SENSEI,
DID YOU FIND AN ANSWER?
WELL,
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT A LOT SINCE THEN
AND...
THE REASON WHY EVERYBODY HAS TO DO THEIR BEST AND WORK SO HARD
DID YOU FIND IT?

I couldn't find the answer.
SFX: MIIIN MIIIN MIIN... JIIIWA JIIIWA...
HUH..?
YOU COULDN'T...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I RACKED MY BRAINS OVER IT,
—— BUT WHEN I REALLY GOT DOWN TO IT, I HONESTLY COULDN'T FIND A SINGLE REASON.
IT'S QUITE AN ODD THING...
—— YEAH, WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, I REALIZED I NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH THAT.
I WONDER WHY THAT IS...
ALL I EVER THOUGHT WAS 'PUTTING IN EFFORT' IS EXHAUSTING, BUT IT'S 'JUST SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO...'

AND WHILE I WAS DOING THAT,
I CAUGHT ONTO THE IDEA OF 'EFFORT IS SOMETHING YOU DO FOR YOURSELF'
IT WAS A PHRASE DRILLED INTO ME SO MUCH,
THAT I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO I HEARD IT FROM OR WHERE I READ IT AT THIS POINT.
NOW THAT I'M THE AGE I AM, I FINALLY FEEL
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. 'YEAH, THAT SAYING REALLY IS TRUE.'
—— I THINK I PROBABLY JUST ALWAYS
WANTED TO BECOME 'A BETTER PERSON THAN I AM NOW...'
キーン コーン カーン コーン...
SHOULD WE EXTEND THE SESSION?
LOOKS LIKE THE SUBJECT SUDDENLY SWITCHED TO ME.
HAAHH...
SFX: KIIN KOOHN (SCHOOL BELL)
TODAY, MY DUTY AS YOUR TEMPORARY HOMEROOM TEACHER IS OVER...
キーン コーン カーン コーン
TIME'S UP.
カーン コーン...
NO.
.....
SFX: KAAN KOOHN... KIIN KOOHN KAAN KOOHN!

SFX: KIIIN KOOON KAAAN KOOOHN KOOOHN
HEY, TAKAGI. .
I KNOW RIGHT NOW YOU'RE PROBABLY SO ANXIOUS YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WITH YOUR LIFE, SO YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR OWN SIZE....
—— THAT'S THE SOURCE OF YOUR ANXIETY.
SENSEI ...?
.....
THE REASON YOU CAN'T PUT EFFORT INTO ANY-THING
IS BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED OF BEING DISAP-POINTED
WHEN YOU DO LEARN YOUR OWN SIZE
BUT TAKAGI,
IT'S OKAY EVEN IF YOU ARE DISAP-POINTED.
ONCE YOU KNOW 'YOUR OWN SIZE,'
YOU'LL FINALLY KNOW 'WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.'
AND ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND YOURSELF,
'WHAT YOU WANT TO DO'
GRADUALLY COMES INTO FOCUS.

IF YOU DO THAT...
THEN YOU CAN AT LEAST ESCAPE
FROM THAT 'ENORMOUS ANXIETY.'
THAT MUCH,
I CAN VOUCH FOR.

— That night, after the test ended,
I drew lots of pictures
of the pretty-colored sweets that were in my head.
They were overflowing so much
I just couldn't stop...
HURRY, GET IN THE BATH...
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SLEEP?
HINAAA!
SFX: SUPIII SUPIII
HEY!
HINAAA!
IF YOU LEAVE THE ELECTRIC FAN ON
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD! OHH..
SHEESH,
WHAT ARE YOU...
.....

THEY ALL LOOK REALLY DELICIOUS...
HUH... WHAT ARE THESE?
THEY'RE SO CUTE!
They look great!!
I'm getting excited!
Yup!
Chapter 84 END

Chapter 85

Summer Vacation ②

SFX: MIIIN MIIIN MIIIN... (CICADAS CHIRPING) JIIIW... JIIIWA...
OOH...
ミーン ミーンミーン...
ジーク ジーク...
Eheh...
SFX MIIIN MIIIN MIIIN MIIIN... SUUU SUUU...
AND THE JELLY BALLS LOOK LIKE BALLS OF WATER, DON'T THEY?
AREN'T THE STRIPED JELLIES CUTE?
DON'T THEY, DON'T THEY?
YOU SURE DREW A LOT...
THESE LOOK SO PRETTY AND DELICIOUS.

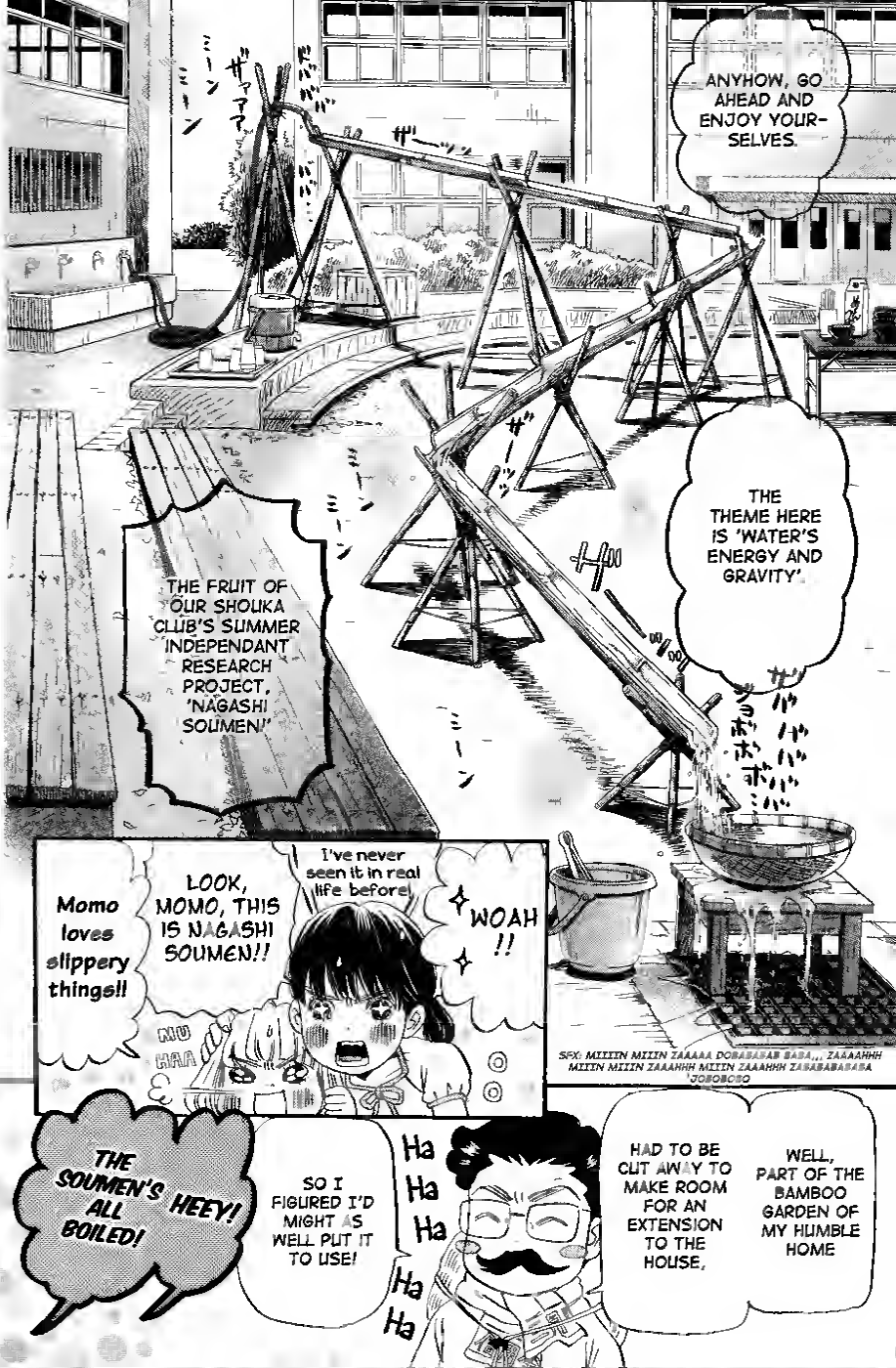
OJII-CHAN SAID WE CAN DO IT NEXT YEAR, TOO! ☆
—— BUT REALLY I'D LIKE TO DO THESE THINGS IN THE SUMMER FESTIVAL OR THE NEW YEARS SHRINE VISITS AGAIN REALLY SOON...
And this mountain of homework...
どさり
IT'S SUMMER VACATION AND I HAVE SO MANY IDEAS FOR CANDY IN MY HEAD
BUT I'VE GOT ALL THIS HOMEWORK TO DO AND DAYS I NEED TO BE IN SCHOOL.
THERE SURE IS... A LOT.
MM...
I'M IN 3RD YEAR, BUT BECAUSE OF EVERY-THING THAT HAP-PENED I ENDED UP BEING REALLY LATE FOR HOME-ROOM A LOT...
SO...

REI-CHAN, HOW OLD WERE YOU
WHEN YOU FIRST THOUGHT THAT YOU WANTED TO BECOME A PRO SHOGI PLAYER?
SFX: MIIN MIIIN MIIIN MIIN...
HM
I GUESS IT WAS... AROUND THE 4TH YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
SFX: MIIIN MIIIN MIIN...

IT FELT LIKE THERE WASN'T ANYTHING ELSE I COULD DO...
OR RATHER
IT'S JUST AT SOME POINT, I REALIZED THIS WAS THE ONLY PATH I HAD LEFT.
ACTU-ALLY...
THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
NO.
.....
YOU WANT TO BE FREE TO HELP OUT IN YOUR GRANDPA'S SHOP, RIGHT?
HINA-CHAN,
OH, RIGHT.
SFX: MIIIN MIIIN... MIIIN MIIIN...

SFX MIIIN MIIIN...
SFX MIIIN MIIIN...
MHM.
AND THE THING I WANT TO TURN MY EYES AWAY FROM...
IS THIS MOUNTAIN OF HOMEWORK AND THE TESTS AND THE EXAMS...
—BUT EVEN IF PEOPLE START TALKING TO ME ABOUT A TARGET SCHOOL,
I CAN'T EVEN REALLY PICTURE MYSELF AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...
I DON'T EVEN REALLY KNOW WHERE I WANT TO GO...
HAVING ALL THESE THINGS I 'WANT TO DO' RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES,
BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO TOUCH THEM
IS SO DEPRESSING...

GOING INTO A GROUP OF PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW AGAIN IS...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO SAY IT...
SFX JIIWA JIIIWA
HINA-CHAN,
IF YOU WANT —— THIS SATURDAY, UH...
SFX MIIIN MIIIN MIIIN
KIRIYAMA-KUN!!
FUFUFUFU
WHEW, IT SURE GOT SUNNY OUT, DIDN'T IT?!
Thank you so much for inviting us here today!
No trouble
WELCOME! ☆ I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR-SELVES!!
WAAAAAH! I let my guard down for an just like that, the situation I setup waaaasss ...
AH
SFX: FUKABUKAAA (DEEP BOW)


ANYHOW, GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YOURSELVES.
THE THEME HERE IS 'WATER'S ENERGY AND GRAVITY'.
THE FRUIT OF OUR SHOUKA CLUB'S SUMMER INDEPENDANT RESEARCH PROJECT, 'NAGASHI SOUMEN!'
SFX: MIIIIN MIIIN ZAAAAA DOBABABAB BABA,,, ZAAAAHHH MIIIN MIIIN ZAAAHHH MIIIN ZAAAHHH ZABABABABABA UOOORCSO
I've never seen it in real life before!
WOAH !!
LOOK, MOMO, THIS IS NAGASHI SOUMEN!!
Momo loves slippery things!!
NU HAA
THE SOUMEN'S ALL BOILED!
HEEY!
SO I FIGURED I'D MIGHT AS WELL PUT IT TO USE!
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
WELL, PART OF THE BAMBOO GARDEN OF MY HUMBLE HOME
HAD TO BE CUT AWAY TO MAKE ROOM FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE HOUSE,

SFX KYUN
SFX PEKORI (NOD)
SO THIS IS THE GIRL THAT KIRIYAMA'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT ALL THIS TIME...
OH!!
UH, OH...
HELLO.
HAHHH
SH-
HUUH? KIRIYAMA!!
SHE REALLY IS A CUTE ONE, ISN'T SHE?
AND THIS IS MY LITTLE SISTER, MOMO
UM,
HELLO, SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION
I'M KAWAMOTO HINATA
HM?
HERE'S YOUR FIRST WAVE OF SOUMEN FOR NOW.
Mountain of soumen
AH, SENSEI,
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU
T/N: KAKIAGE IS MIXED VEGETABLE AND SEAFOOD TEMPURA

The kakiage is all cooked up! Sorry it's late...
Excuse meee!
Huu... Soooo hot...
Dripping with sweat
unkempt
HEY, KIRIYAMA!!
RIGHT, KIRIYAMA ?!!
THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, SO EAT UP AND KEEP MOVING!!
For such a cute girl, even somebody as straight-laced as Kiriyama-kun will plunge into the world of love, eh? Mhm. Mhm. Oh dear! It's so darn bittersweet! Hey, hey!
SENSEI... UM... THAT HURTS...
SFX GASU GASU GURIGURI

SFX MIIIN MIIIN MIIIN
Oh, are you the sensei? Thank you so much for all you've done for Rei-kun.
And thank you for inviting us today
Oh, my! Kakiage, you say?!
Everyone will be so happy! I don't know how to thank you!!
Come, come, right this way
Well well
How beautiful!!
RIGID
THE SITUATION JUST NATURALLY FLOWED INTO SOMETHING REALLY COMPLICATED AGAIN!
HUH... ER, SENSEI?!
YOUR FACE IS RED! IT LOOKS LIKE CLAY!

SFX FUKABUKAAA (DEEP BOW)

SFX KIRIH (SHARP) JYABABABA ZAAAAHH

ALL RIGHT THEN, WE'LL START WITH THE KIDS!!
IS EVERYONE ON THEIR MARKS?!
OKAY, SHALL WE GET FLOWING?!
You're not getting heat-stroke, are you?!
Oh, Sense, is something wrong?! Your face turned the color of rusty iron!

HAHAH! FIGHTING QUITE THE HARD BATTLE OVER THERE, AREN'T YOU, MISS?
Ah!
Huh?
AAHH!
HA WA WAH
HAH HAH HA
ちゅるん
ピュー!
Her eyes are swimming like crazy!
THE KIDS CAN'T EVEN FOLLOW THE NOODLES THEY'RE MOVING SO FAST!!
AND MAKE THE ANGLE OF THE BAMBOO LESS STEEP!!
LET UP ON THE WA-TERRR!
ピュッ
ミュルルル
SFX: ZAZAAAAAAH KAHH POOON CHU...UN ZAAH PYUUUH
SFX: ZAAH
I get it!!
YOU LIE IN WAIT FOR IT!!
YOU DON'T CHASE AFTER IT,
SFX: GUIH MIIN MIIN
GOOOOOE
This is kinda fun!
The kakiage is great, toooo☆
YUUUM!!
Sense of accomplishment
Mhm. Mhm...
Mhm. Mhm.

SFX BASHUURUU ZAZAAHHH
MAN, THAT'S FAST !!
WOAA AHH!
I can't even see them !!
LET'S KEEP THIS ROLLIIIING!
Hungry Boy Time!!
OKAY!!
NOW FOR THE LONG-AWAITED ...
SFX KIRIIHHH WASHIHH BABAAN
Greens are misses !!
Huh?!
GREEN!! I JUST PULLED A GREEN!!
Green
Pink can be exchanged for chicken tempura!!
YA-HOOO!
GOT
I pulled a winner! I got a pink one!
Nothing's getting all the way to me at all!
Ummm...
Hold on!!
I've gotta get some of that chicken tempura!
WaaH! A pink one!!
WAA
YUUM!
WAAAAA
Go to the end of the line, please!
SFX ZAZAAA SUKAAAH

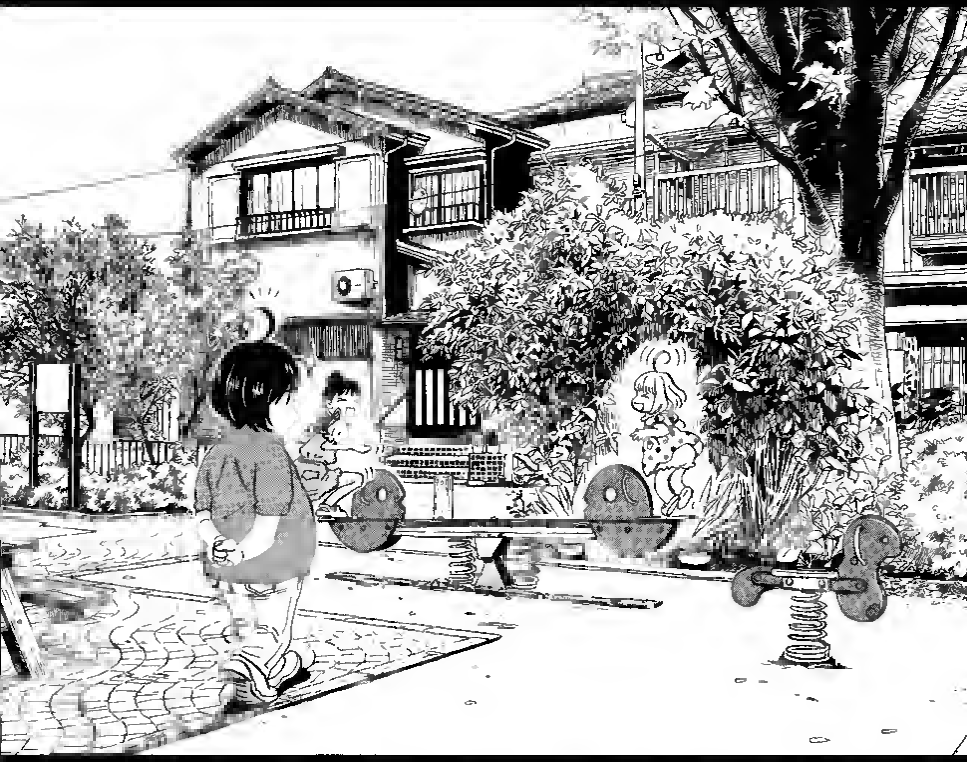
REI-CHAN LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING FUN!
DAM-MIIIT!
The chicken tempura's sooo good!☆
WAA HA HA
WAA HA HA...
Ha Ha Ha.
I'M THE ONE THAT COOKED ALL THESE NOO-DLES, YOU KNOW!
HEY, HEY, HEY!
LET ME HAVE SOME, TOO !!
I got another Pink oooone !!
Ha Ha Ha...
HE SURE DOES.
—YEAH...
YEAH...
I NEVER KNEW THERE WERE HIGH SCHOOLS AS FUN AS THIS ONE...
THIS IS NICE.

Chapter 85 END

SFX JIIIWA JIIIWA JIIIWA MIIIN MIIIN

Chapter 86

New Year



January of the next year.
MM
MUUUH
1
SFX: GUNINI MUMUU
It's almost time for my exams.
REI-CHAN.
HEY...
HEY, UM...

Yes, I decided that my first choice

would be the school Rei-chan goes to,

Komahashi Private High School.

This way

he can give me help with studying.

A-
About where do you think I should draw it?
WHY DON'T YOU START BY DRAWING ONE IN THE LONELIEST LOOKING SPOT?
SFX: HOKA HOKA (WARMTH)

The first time
—that I said 'I want to go to Hashi High' to Rei-chan.
For some reason, Rei-chan was really, really happy.
HUUUH?
You, Hina-chan? Hashi High?
Huh?! Um... I still don't know if I'll get in yet... Er um... I haven't gone to cram school or anything either
The next day, he came to our house carrying a 'study plan.'
We have plenty of time. If we start preparing now, I'm sure you'll be okay!!
After that, he started watching over my studies several times a week after we ate dinner.
I- I THINK I'M SORT OF STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF IT. YEAH.
I THINK I MIGHT BE GETTING IT!
YEAH, YOU ARE.
MATH IS SOMETHING YOU CAN ONLY GET A GRASP OF BY SOLVING LOTS AND LOTS OF PROBLEMS.

Is there anyone in here that wants to indulge?!
Hel-looo!
SFX CHIKA (GLANCE)
HAHH!!
Is... Is this...
DINNER I'M SENSING?!
NEOUN NEOUN
SFX PIINN
CALM DOWN JUST SOLVE THEM ONE AT A TIME AND YOU'LL BE OKAY
Okay
I'll do my best!
The problems became so easy to understand.
because Reikun tutored me patiently. I was really thankful.
He-yup
BA-BAAAN
カチャカチャ
ほわわーん
SFX KACHA KACHA HOWAWAAN
HUH?!
YES!! YES!
I WANT TO INDULGE!
THAT ...IS IT...?
Indulge?
HAHH
SFX GATAH

SFX: AMAAMA-- GUH GUH HOWAAN
AAAHH!
TH-THAT'S THE KAWAMOTO FAMILY'S LEGENDARY 'INDULGENCE UDON'!!
あまあまー
Here you are!
Oagesan and tempura both as toppings!!
ほわぁん
This fluffy, melting tempura,
Having one delicious thing right next to another delicious thinnnng!!
It makes me so happyyy!
and right next to it is this swee~t oagesan soaking in sizzly broth!!
IT... IT'S REALLY GOOD!
Indulgence Udon?
SFX: JUUN
T/N OAGESAN IS FRIED BEAN CURD
'INDULGENCE UDON'.
HU HU HU
SHE INVENTED THIS CRAZY IDEA OF 'PUTTING IN BOTH'!! —— AND THAT'S WHERE WE GET THE NAME
—SO, IN ORDER TO RELIEVE HER DAUGHTER OF HER WORRIES,
I can't choose!
Okay, do you want kitsune udon or tempura udon?
Akane 3rd Year of middle school

T/N KITSUNE UDON IS UDON WITH OAGESAN AS THE MAIN TOPPING

Mom would make this for me a lot when I had exams.
Eating it would always cheer me up.
SO I THOUGHT
I JUST HAD TO MAKE HINA SOME FOR HER EXAMS, TOO.
MM...
I LOVE IT! IT'S SO TASTY!
OKAY.
HOW ABOUT ONE MORE PUSH?
I LEFT THE HEAT IN THE BATH ON. SO WHEN YOU'RE DONE, FEEL FREE
OKAY
THANK YOU. GOOD NIGHT!!

When I first thought I'd like to go the the private high school that Rei-chan goes to
I didn't know if it would be selfish
to just say 'I want to go there' out loud.

That summer, we set up a new stand
and I realized again.
Black Pearl Tapioca
Black Pearl Tapioca

just how many sweets is Ojii-chan going to have to make?
To make these little sweet candies that cost 250 yen each,
250円
just how much time, effort, and money did it take?
On the day he cooked the anko,
Ojii-chan stood in front of the pot since dawn.
— And in order for me to go off to school,
How much work for each of them is left in his hands?

Please, go.
Go to Komakashi High School.
HUH?
B-BUT...
YOU ALL WORKED REAL HARD THIS SUMMER TO RUN THE STAND
WE DID GREAT, FROM CALCULATING THE COSTS TO MAKING AND SELLING THEM, ALL THE WAY UP TO THE POINT WE THREW IN THE TOWEL.
—SO THE ONE FUSSING OVER PEOPLE IS YOU
YOU'RE THINKIN' IF YOUR GRANDPA'S THE ONE MAKIN' THE SWEETS,
HOW MUCH OF THE PROFIT IS GONNA BE LEFT?
!!

Here, this is plum syrup that Chiho-chan made!!
Iyaaa
'KIDS DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.'
— IS NOT THE WAY I FEEL.
MONEY'S IMPOR-TANT.
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER
AND I'M IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT YOU REALIZED THAT.
— BUT HINA,
YOU CAN'T GO UNDERESTIMATING YOUR GRANDPA NOW.
THERE ARE PEOPLE AWAITING YOUR GRANDPA'S SWEETS!!
— SO I'M STILL RARING TO DO BATTLE OUT THERE.
三日月堂
SFX NYARI (GRIN) JYAKIIIN

DID YOU JUST 'THINK IT'D BE FUN'?
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
THAT ONE REASON IS PLENTY!
YOUR GRANDPA CARES MOST THAT YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF
Ojii-chan...
—BUT, UH, YOU KNOW
YOUR SISTER AND I LOOKED INTO A FEW THINGS,
AND THAT KOMAHASHI HIGH SCHOOL THE KID'S GOING TO IS PRETTY HIGH-RANKING ACADEMICALLY
ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
KYAAA!
I— I think so?
SFX: GAKU GAKU... (SHAKING)

UM,
HEY, REI-CHAN?
IN THIS PROBLEM I'M ON—
I'll study hard
and go to that high school!!
— I'm going to work hard.
Really hard.
REI-CHA...
.....
.....

When Rei-chan is solving shogi mating puzzles,
he gets so quiet, like it's completely absorbing him.
And that got me hooked so I was able to concentrate really hard.
Under that mysterious quietness, I opened the curtains,
and outside the window
the first snow of the year was falling.
Chapter 86 END

Chapter 87

Passing Time

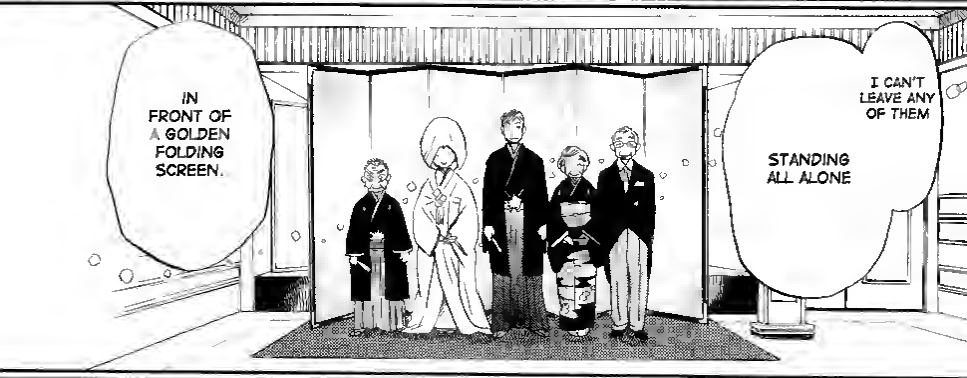
3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chugaku Umino

LET'S SEE,
A HIGH OF 135,
A LOW OF 80...
HMMM
THAT'S PRETTY DARN GOOD, I'D SAY, SOME-CHAN.
HM...
SFX: SHUN SHUN
NICE!
EVEN I IMPRESS MYSELF!!
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE'S GONE DOWN CONSIDERABLY, BUT I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE TAKING THE MEDICATION I GIVE YOU.
SURE!
LAY IT ON ME!! GIMME ABOUT 3 MONTHS' WORTH!
YOU IDIOT, I CAN'T GIVE YOU THAT MUCH!!
YOU'LL GET 3 WEEK'S WORTH COME BACK AGAIN NEXT MONTH AS USUAL
DANG. AH WELL. GUESS I'LL BE COMING BACK THEN!!

IT'S BECAUSE YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER LEFT YOU WITH THOSE THREE GIRLS, ISN'T IT...?
THOUGH YOU REALLY HAVE CHANGED, SOME-CHAN
OR 'I'LL LIVE AND DIE THE WAY I WANT!!"
NOT TOO LONG AGO, YOU WOULD'VE SAID 'I DON'T NEED TO SEE NO DOCTOR!"



T/N: GOLDEN FOLDING SCREENS ARE OFTEN USED AS DECORATIONS IN WEDDING CEREMONIES

KYAAA
Kinder-gatener
Balls of Mud
WELL, SHE'S STILL IN KINDER-GARTEN,
EVEN IF SHE LEFT AT AGE 20 I'D BE... 90... AND A HALF I THINK..
THE YOUNG-EST CHILD... HOW OLD IS SHE AGAIN?
IF YA'S GET MARRIED AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, IT'D REALLY HELP ME OUT..
MOMO
BUT...
SOME-CHAN...
Ahh...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO WATCH OVER YOU TILL THEN...
SORRY, SOME-CHAN...
SFX SHUN SHUN UUUUNNN

IT'LL BE FINE
YOU'RE EVEN SCORING OVER 80% ON THOSE PROOF QUESTIONS YOU WERE BAD AT..
YOU DID EVERY-THING YOU COULD TO GET READY
UUuuuu
HAAA
I'm so nervou---s!
So bad they're crying
The anxiety is contagious
FIVE MORE DAYS TO THE EXAMS
2 February
YOU CAN PRACTICE SOME OF THOSE TYPES OF PROBLEMS AGAIN
—— AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU FEEL TROUBLED BY,
LET'S DO SOME OVERALL REVIEWING
FROM HERE
SFX KYUU

'Pasha'

When

I saw her face looking like a surprised young child

I...

It felt like
AHH
What did I just do?
With her exams this close...
SFX ZAA
'Shikoku.'
He's going that far... away...?
'He'd... told me that... a little while back...'
—I thought she already knew.
'I... I'd heard he was going to Meitei High School...'
I wish I hadn't said anything.
I'd accidentally
She'd finally started really pushing herself
cracked open a small egg.
And
the one that really caused that face
How could I cause her to make a face like that...?

HELLO GRANNY YAMADA!
WHAT A MATURE YOUNG LADY YOU ARE
OH, HINA-CHAN – OUT SHOPPING?
—was Takahashi-kun, wasn't it...?
THE SCENERY OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD,
THIS TOWN,
IT HASN'T CHANGED SINCE I WAS A KID.
AH,
CURRY SMELL...
—AND THE END OF THE SHOPPING'S
牛乳のタカハシ

"THE KAWAMOTO FAMILY'S CURRY IS GREAT!"
TWINKLE
Takahashi-kuu loves curry.
He must he happy.
I guess they're having curry at Takahashi's tonight.
— Oh, yeah.

Shikoku, huh?
That's so far...
And
Iwate where
Chicho is
Mom, aud
grandma
—is far, too.
and
dad, too.
It's
always like
that.
I think that
the tomorrow
I'm expecting
will come just
the way I
expect it to
and I'll
always he
ahle to
see
the
people
I have,
just like
always
—and
then
get
surprised.
It's always,
always,
like this...

KIRIYAMA-KUN, ARE YOU REALLY SURE?
IT'S FINE. I'LL BE HERE UNTIL YOU GET BACK, AKARI-SAN.
AFTER ALL, YOU HELPED ME OUT SO MUCH LAST YEAR
SORRY. THERE'S A PARTY AT AUNTIE'S SHOP AND THEY'RE SHORT STAFFED...
Is Momo going to sleep over at Ojii-chan's
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.
OKAY.
WHAT DO I DO...?
THE ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
AND I'M...
GUSU...
GUSU...
38.7
SFX: GUSU ZU
YOU'LL BE OKAY.
YOU'VE DONE PLENTY OF STUDYING.
JUST GET PLENTY OF REST AND GET YOUR HEALTH AS GOOD AS YOU CAN FOR THE EXAMS.

SFX BUSHUH GOSHI GOSHI (WIPE WIPE)
SFX ZUZU ZUH
IN A LITTLE BIT, HOW ABOUT YOU HAVE SOME MORE RICE PORRIDGE AND TAKE SOME MEDICINE?
JUST REST UNTIL THEN
HU
O-OKAY
UU
YOU WON'T FORGET
YOU'LL DO FINE
WHAT HAPPENS IF MY FEVER DOESN'T GO DOWN?
WHAT IF I
FORGET ALL THE THINGS I LEARNED ?
OKAY,
IT SHOULD BE EASIER TO GET TO SLEEP IF IT'S DARK, SO I'M CLOSING THE DOOR
OKAY
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE IN THE NEXT ROOM
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT, CALL ME, OKAY?

OKAY.
— And on the morning of the exam
her fever had gone down considerably and she ended up at just over 37 degrees.
HINAA!
KIRIYAMA-KUN IS HERE TO SEE YOU~~!
HUUH?! REI-CHAN?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE!
I'LL BE FINE!
ANYHOW, I CAME HERE TO GET YOU GUYS, HINA-CHAN
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
We don't have class today.
OH, OKAY.
IT'S OKAY, I HAVE TODAY OFF
GOOD LUCK, HINA!
BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DON'T SLI-
SLIP
ER- DON'T FALL, OKAY?!!
OKAY, BYE BYE!!
SLIP
GOOD
So long!!

T/N THE WORD FOR "SLIP" CAN BE SLANG FOR FAILING OR BOMBING AN EXAM.

I was thinking about the people that had disappeared from my life.
The whole time
I was sick,
SFX: ZUZUH
...
THANK YOU
And I couldn't stop crying...
I'LL CARRY YOUR BAG
HUH?
NO, I GOT IT
C'MON
IT COULD BE DANGEROUS, THE ROAD IS ICY
But...
HUH?
Hmm
THAT, FEELS LIKE SOMETHING SOMEBODY ELSE TOLD ME ONCE...
KIRIYAMA-KUN...
YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE A MOM

appeared in my life.

Rei-chan had suddenly

that's right.

— Yeah, but,

— Yeah.

Not everyone has gone far away.

Not everyone has disappeared.

I can't

Chapter 87 END

forget that.

Chapter 88

Spring Arrives

SFX BOHH DONN DOGASUH

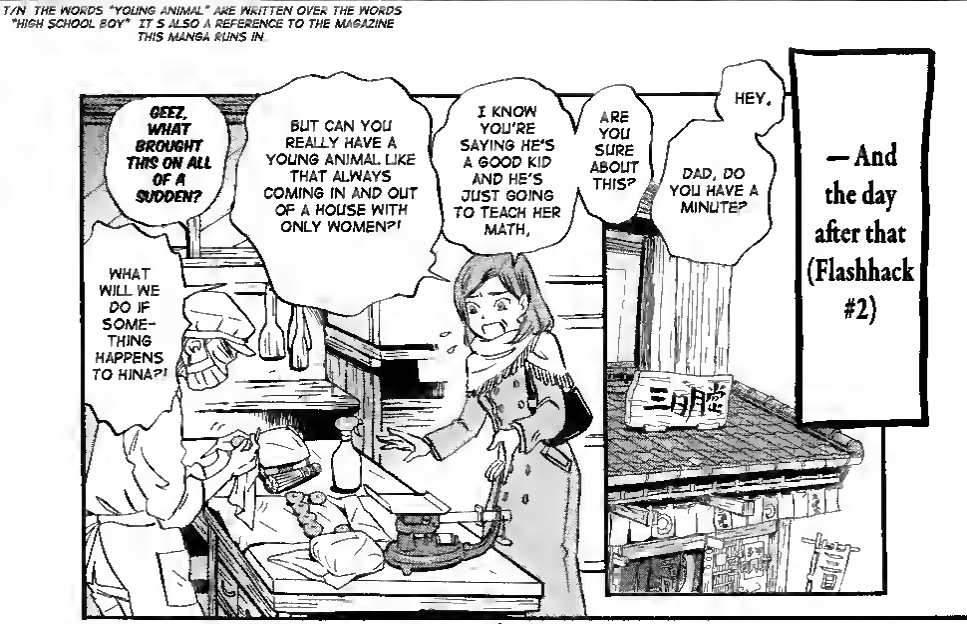
SFX: FURUFURU (SHAKING)
WA
Ha...
HA WA WA WA!
Tuna and Half-Boiled Egg Macaroni Salad
Eggplant Meat Gratin Dripping With Cheese
Mini Onigiri & Sweet Pickled Daikon
Mountain of Juicy Deep-Fried Ham
Garlic Toast
SFX: KONGARI (CRISPY) JUWAWAAAH HOKAHOKAA (SIZZLE)

HINA-CHAN, CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING!!
Congratulations, Hina-chan!
Thank you, Momo!
Momo is gonna grow up, tooo!
It's-It's a mountain of fried food!
And the eggplant gratin!! I love it!! So much cheeeese!!
And a mountain of macaroni salad!! And so much tuna and half-boiled eggs—!!
So, what do you think, Hina? I got all your favorites !!
HOHOHO
HAF HAF
AH! It's sizzling hot!
It's so delicious !!
Mountain
Okay, dig in, everyone!!
This is a celebration, so I got kind of excited and deep fried 2 kilograms of chicken.
Cause today, 'fried foods are drinks'!!
T-TWO KILOS?! YOU CALL THAT 'DRINKS'?!
Akari hold on a sec!

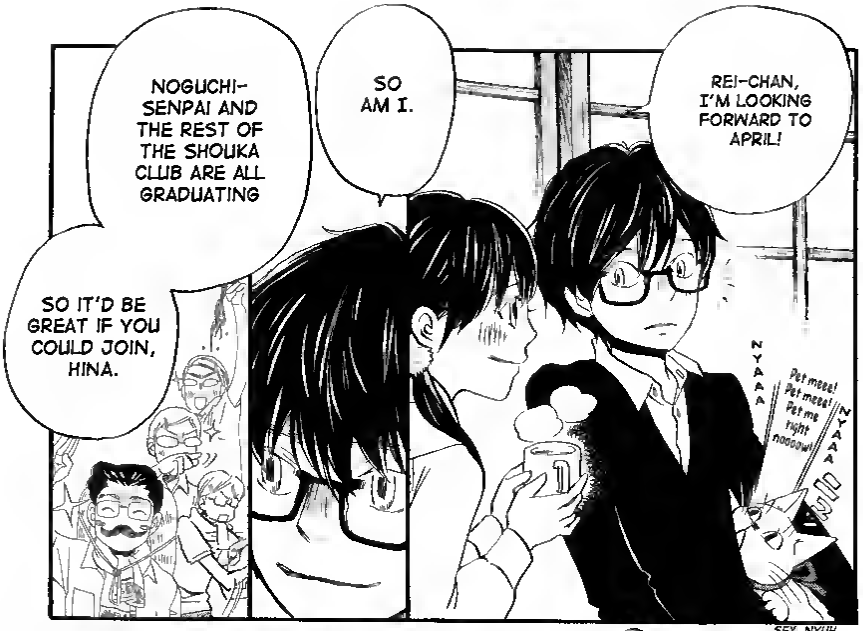
You're still only 23!!
AKARI! NO! BAD!!
I can't believe it...
Little Hina is already a high schooler ...
It happened so fast
I'm really getting old.
SFX SUNN BISHIIH
But this is really all thanks to Rei-chaaan!
Because Rei-chan showed me how to do math,
I figured out lots of enigmas.
Like proof problems!!
AFTER REI-CHAN STARTED REVIEWING MATH WITH HER, HER AVERAGE MATH SCORES WENT UP NEARLY 30 POINTS!
And she had been so bad at math before
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHIN', KID!!
SHOGI PLAYERS REALLY ARE PRETTY BRIGHT, AIN'T THEY?
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU REI-KUN, TOO?
Do you want more? Go ahead, don't be bashful.
Mhm.
Huh?
Uh,
thank you very much.
HEAVY

The Night Before the Exams (Flashback)
SFX GATAH
Y-YOU LEFT THE TWO OF THEM ALONE IN THE HOUSE?
KIRIYAMA-KUN, HE'S THAT BOY THAT'S OVER ALL THE TIME, ISN'T HE?
HOW OLD IS HE RIGHT NOW?
WHAT?! 2ND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL?!
YOU LEFT A GIRL IN THE 3RD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL AND A BOY IN THE 2ND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL ALONE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?!
SFX NIKKORI (GRIN)
WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF SOMETHING HAPPENS?!
IF THERE'S SOME MISTAKE, THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE, WON'T IT?!!
You have to go back there right now!!
W-what if something happens to Hina ?!
IT'S OKAY, AUNTIE THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT.
OKAY? HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!!
Caaalm down
THIS IS KIRI-YAMA-KUN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

T/N: THE WORDS "YOUNG ANIMAL" ARE WRITTEN OVER THE WORDS "HIGH SCHOOL BOY". IT'S ALSO A REFERENCE TO THE MAGAZINE THIS MANGA RUNS IN.


— And the day after that (Flashback #2)
HEY.
DAD, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I KNOW YOU'RE SAYING HE'S A GOOD KID AND HE'S JUST GOING TO TEACH HER MATH,
BUT CAN YOU REALLY HAVE A YOUNG ANIMAL LIKE THAT ALWAYS COMING IN AND OUT OF A HOUSE WITH ONLY WOMEN?!
GEEZ, WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHAT WILL WE DO IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HINA?!

NOT ONLY AKARI, BUT DAD, TOO?!!
THEY'RE TRUSTING A 2ND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL BOY THIS MUCH...?! JUST HOW MUCH OF A SAFE BET IS THIS KID?
I'M STARTING TO FEAR FOR THE FUTURE. JUST WHAT ARE BOYS OF THIS GENERATION LIKE?!!
FEELS THE SAME WAY
T-Thank you very much
I really do want to thank yooou!!
Have this! And this!!
Won't you eat something?
SFX: GUI GUI


NOGUCHI-SENPAI AND THE REST OF THE SHOUKA CLUB ARE ALL GRADUATING
SO AM I.
REI-CHAN, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL!
SO IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD JOIN, HINA.
NYAAAA
Pet meee! Pet meee! Pet me right nooow!
NYAAA
SFX: NYUH

Sensei?
YES!!
This is great!!
YES!!
The teacher from the Nagashi Soumen? That's great!!
Really ?!
SENSEI LOOKED REALLY HAPPY, TOO, FOR SOME REASON
SFX: GUHH

YOU DID SO MUCH WORK...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, REI-CHAN
YOU CAME A BUNCH OF TIMES EVERY WEEK...

IT'S OKAY.
I WAS ABLE TO STUDY WHILE I WAS HERE.
And I realized something awful.
If I'd gotten bad results after that, she'd feel like was 'her fault'.
Hina, it's okay!!
He said it just like that.
YES. UNLESS SOMETHING REALLY CRAZY HAPPENS
Dang, his guy's scary!!
In that world, the kid's scary like a demon!!
KID, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER 2 OR SO RANKED MATCHES IN THIS PERIOD, RIGHT?
AH, YES!
I HAVE 8 WINS RIGHT NOW
SO YOU'RE GONNA RISE IN CLASS? TO B2?
E-EIGHT WINS IN A ROW?!
HUH ?!
That's a different way of facing things than I've done up till now...
In each and every match, I played every bit as carefully as I could.
I can't stand the idea
of her being in trouble somewhere with me not knowing.
THAT'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?
RISE IN CLASS?
A DEMON? REI-CHAN?
Umm..
Uh...
THAT'S GREAT!
Hina-chan, more juice, pleeeease!
don't like it when she cries or she's worried.
—I

I had to make sure she got accepted.
So when I heard she'd be within arm's reach of me,
But that day,
other people had to decide for me, like in a trial.
was
some thing that
I thought that whether I was 'right' or 'wrong
Until then,

when I heard her say 'What I did wasn't wrong.'
and saw her over-whelmed with anxiety,
but never letting go
of the firm grasp she had on the helm of her heart,
I

saw a light that I didn't have in me.
Without a doubt a part of me
Yeah.

—that day
was created
by her.

REI.
.....
DAD...
I WON TODAY, SO I JUST MANAGED TO AVOID GETTING A DEMOTION POINT.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE IN B2 AGAIN THIS PERIOD

WE MAY BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST TIME.
REI.

I GUESS WE WILL.
DAD.
Chapter 88 END

REGARDING FATHER AND CHILD SHOGI PLAYERS

That shot of Kiriyama-kun and his dad was nice, wasn't it? A young player winning and rising in rank, and a veteran player staving off a demotion point and standing firm, and both of them standing together in B-2 the next period. Situations like this are pretty common in the shogi world. But in reality, usually they're not father and son like in the manga. There are surprisingly few parent and child pairs in the shogi world.

Even without looking at any documents, I can confidently say that there are few enough that you could count them on your fingers. To start off, a long time ago there was a major father-son pair. Kimura Yoshio, the 14th Meijin, and his son, Kimura Yoshinori 9-dan. I need not even point out that the father was a great meijin. And it wouldn't be going too far to say that modern shogi began with him. Yoshinori 9-dan was also an excellent shogi player that rose to A-class. Also, despite having such a remarkable track record, he would call himself a weak player, and he was a wondrous author (?) that created 'How the Weak Defeat the Strong.'

Another was the father-son pair from the southeast, Itaya Shirou 9-dan and Itaya Susumu 9-dan. They were also great fellow shogi players that both made it to Class A. However, Itaya Susumu unfortunately passed away at the young age of 47 in 1988.

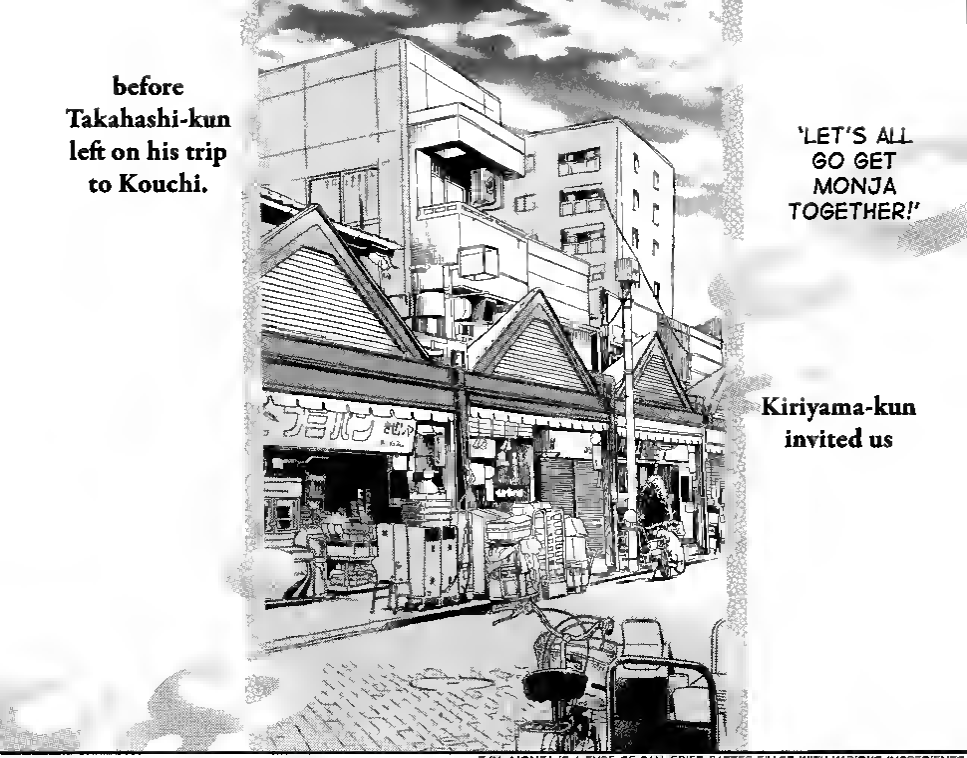
Now we'll jump right to modern times. Incredibly, not one pair a generation apart appeared in the shogi world for nearly 50 years. There was a big commotion when the father-son pair Nishikawa Kenji 7-dan and Nishikawa Kazuhiro 4-dan first came to be.

All that's left after that is situations when there are fathers playing in the men's division and their daughters playing in the women's shogi division. First there's Itou Hatasu 7-dan and Itou Asuka women's 1-dan. Hatasu 7-dan is famous for being a creator of mating shogi puzzles. Asuka-san is currently retired from being a shogi player and is pouring her time into spreading shogi.

And finally, there's the newly-formed fresh couple (?) Iino Kenji 7-dan and Iino Ai Women's 3-dan father-daughter couple. Ai-san just turned pro this year and as the daughter of the popular Kenji 7-dan, she had a warm welcome into the pros from fellow players. That's all, 5 pairs. You could say that's very few, especially if you compare it to the oft-associated world of Go. The world of Go has I think dozens of players of the same family one or two generations apart. It really is odd. (Rankings are current as of September 2013)

◀ These two, father and son players, will both be in Class B Group 2 next period.

Chapter 89
Child of Sangatsu Town



T/N: MONJA IS A TYPE OF PAN-FRIED BATTER FILLED WITH VARIOUS INGREDIENTS

SO,
UH,
CONGRATS ON GRADUATING, YOU TWO.
AND I WANNA WISH YOU GOOD LUCK AT KOUCHI PRIVATE SCHOOL, TAKAHASHI-KUN.
UHH...
Seems to have gotten even bigger .....
もんじゃ 次郎

AH, EXCUSE ME,
BEFORE YOU GO ON
KIRIYAMA-SAN,
CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING IT UP TO B-2!!
That's awesome!!
HUH?!
AH...
C-CONGRATULATIONS, KIRIYAMA-KUN!
OH,
WAH! THANK YOU.
Looks like she just got it
SFX: GUIHH GOHH
GRAMPS WAS REAL HAPPY ABOUT IT
HE COULDN'T BELIEVE HE KNEW SOMEBODY IN B-CLASS
IT LOOKS LIKE HE CAN'T CONTAIN WANTING TO BOAST ABOUT IT
Yahooo! My sensei made it to B-class!
Kiriyama-kun is a future meijin!
SFX: DONN
I know he was looking forward to that
I'M SORRY I LOST SO EARLY IN THE MHK CUP THAT WAS JUST HELD
AN, THEN,
UWAA I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT
NAW, GRAMPS IS ALREADY GETTING HYPED FOR LATER
'NEXT IS THE SHISHI-OU CHAMPIONSHI~~~~P!!'
Okay everyone, sorry for the wait.
Salmon monja and some pollack mochi with cheese.
THANKS!
Thank you very much!

I WANT
TO BE A PRO SOON, TOO.
MY MOM AND DAD ARE REALLY HAPPY HE'S PERKING UP
HE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HOW AMAZING PROS ARE
HE'S HAD A TENDENCY TO SLEEP IN A LOT, BUT LATELY HE'S BEEN POKING HIS HEAD INTO THE LOCAL SHOGI CLUB.
YOU'RE TOTALLY MY GRAMPA'S IDOL, KIRIYAMA-SAN.
'I want to be a pro'.
he said 'soon.'
Not 'someday,'
I see.
AH,
I'LL DO IT.
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH, JUST LET ME HANDLE IT!
In Takahashi-kun's mind, being a pro has changed
from being a 'dream,'
to a 'goal.'

T/N: KOSHIEN IS THE STADIUM WHERE THE JAPANESE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE HELD
SFX: SZZZZ KAH KAH KAN KAH
I WANT TO RAISE MY CHANCES OF GOING TO KOSHIEN AS HIGH AS I CAN.
SO I DECIDED TO GO TO WHERE THAT SUPERVISOR IS.
A GUY WHO HELPED ME OUT A LOT IN MY LITTLE LEAGUE DAYS IS WORKING AS A SUPERVISOR AT TAKACHI PRIVATE SCHOOL NOW
— SO HE INVITED ME
ALL THE GOOD PLAYERS AND NOTED NAMES IN BASEBALL GATHER IN TOKYO.
THERE'S TOO BIG A TALENT POOL FOR INFIELDERS
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'RE DOZENS OF SCHOOLS
rising up with a sizzle just like always.
and that great smell
Takahashi-kun's skillful use of his hands, the clanging of the trowels,
— But soon in Sangatsu Town, this spring,
Takahashi-kun will be gone.

SFX: JAN KAN JUWAAA (SZZZ)
SFX: JYUUU JYUUU (SZZZ SZZZ)
DO THEY HAVE MONJA OVER THERE IN KOUCHI, TOO?
IF THEY DON'T, I'LL MAKE MY OWN.
I'LL JUST NEED A HOT PLATE.
AND I CAN GET ALL THE INGREDIENTS AT ANY 'OL SUPERMARKET.
Ah. I might have to bring the sliced squid with me.
THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A WELCOME PARTY FOR ME AT THE DORMS.
SO I THOUGHT I'D MAKE THEM SOMETHING AS A WAY TO SAY HELLO.
IT'D BE A WAY OF SAYING 'I'M FROM SANGATSU TOWN.'
Ah,
I see
...

All of a sudden

That's one thing that
EVEN IF THEY'VE HEARD OF MONJA, I'LL BET THEY'VE NEVER EATEN IT BEFORE.
MHM.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA
We are kids of San-gatsu Town.

I truly felt like I was going to cry.

OF COURSE!
AH, BUT GRAMPA TOLD ME TO 'AT LEAST TAKE SOME TROWELS WITH YOU.'
no matter where we go, will remain the same.
YEAH. I'M SURE IT'LL BE GREAT IF YOU MAKE IT, TAKAHASHI KUN.

He really was

They might have big ones though.
YEAH, YOU'VE GOT A POINT. I DON'T THINK THEY'D SELL THESE LITTLE PEELER ONES THERE.
HE SAID 'THERE'S NOW WAY THEY'LL SELL THOSE THERE.'
SOME BAMBOO ONES FOR USING WITH HOTPLATES.

going to leave soon.

It really made me happy

I was about to cry a bunch of times
so I held my breath
WHEN ARE YOU GOING?
NEXT SATURDAY.
THAT'S THE DAY OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.
IT'S TOO BAD I'M GONNA MISS IT.

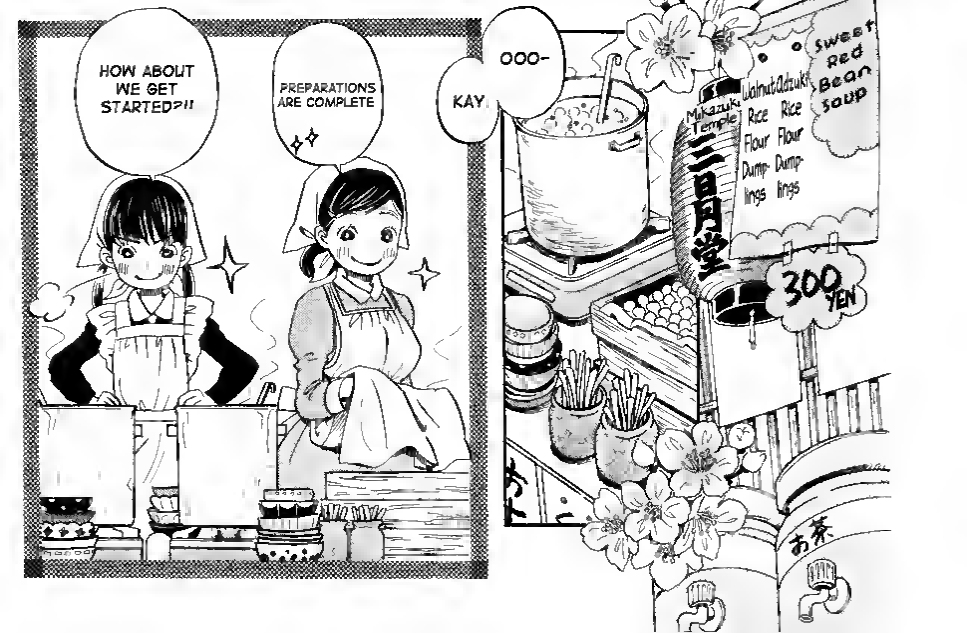
that in the end, Rei-chan had been able to talk with him and invite him.

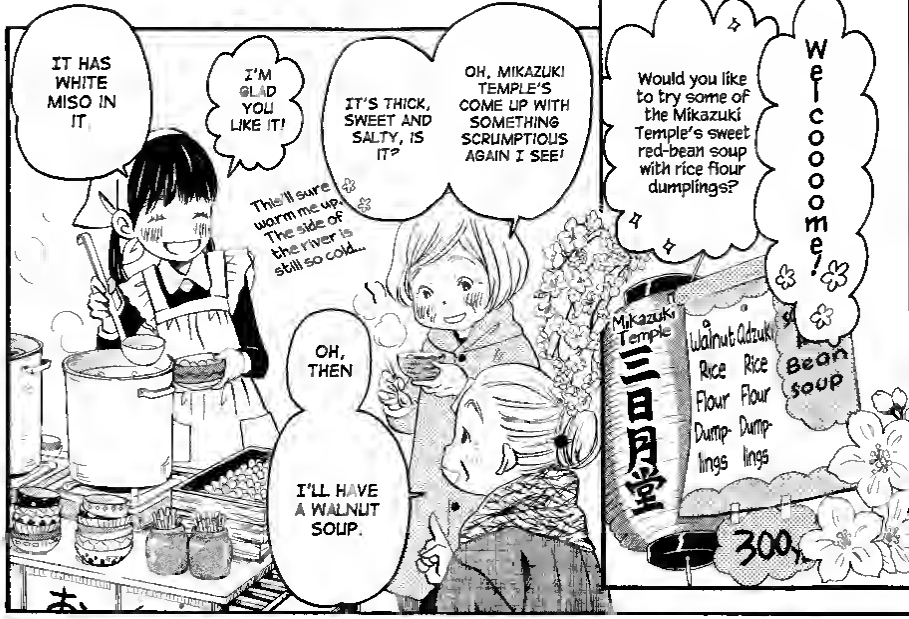
—But there was no way
This time is precious.
THANKS!
WELL, GOOD LUCK!
IS THAT SO?
THIS TIME WE'RE GONNA HAVE TWO FLAVORS OF SWEET RED-BEAN SOUP!!
YEAH.
KAWAMOTO, ARE YOU GOING TO DO ANOTHER STAND?

I'm really glad that we got to eat monja together.

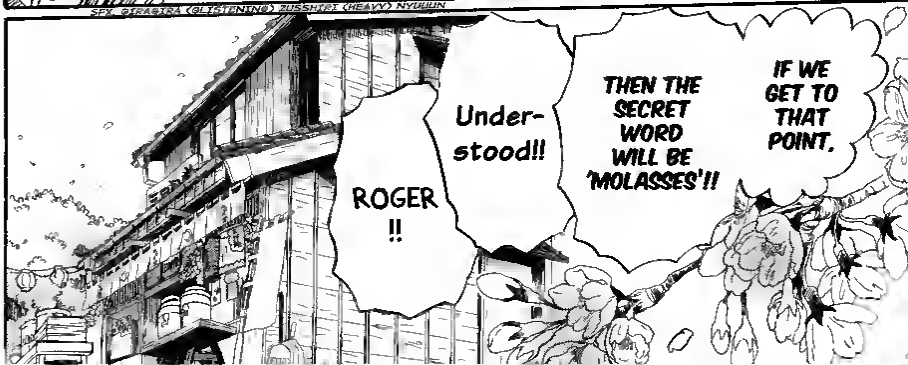
I really am.

— And so the morning of the cherry blossom festival arrived.




Welcoooome!
Would you like to try some of the Mikazuki Temple's sweet red-bean soup with rice flour dumplings?
Mikazuki Temple
三日月堂
Walnut Rice Flour Dumplings
Adzuki Bean soup
300
IT HAS WHITE MISO IN IT.
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT!
IT'S THICK, SWEET AND SALTY, IS IT?
OH, MIKAZUKI TEMPLE'S COME UP WITH SOMETHING SCRUMPTIOUS AGAIN I SEE!
This'll sure warm me up. The side of the river is still so cold...
OH, THEN
I'LL HAVE A WALNUT SOUP.

I'll boil up as many as ya want!
IF WE'RE RUNNIN' LOW ON FLOUR DUMPLINGS, GIMME SOME NOTICE!
SOOO, HOW'RE THINGS GOIN'?!
IT'S STILLY CHILLY OUT SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE STRUCK GOLD GOING WITH SOMETHING WARM!
ギラ
YES! ☆ IT'S GOING GREAT!
Tupperware containing the cash from sales
ずしり
HAF HAF


SPK. BIRASIRA (GLISTENING) ZUSSHIRI (HEAVY) NYUUUN
ROGER !!
Under-stood!!
THEN THE SECRET WORD WILL BE 'MOLASSES'!!
IF WE GET TO THAT POINT,

特製
りんご飴
SANKATSU
SANKATSU

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANNA GO SAY GOODBYE?
.....
YEAH.
I'M SURE.
"GOOD LUCK!"
Takahashi-kun...
I'm going to give it my all here.
Excuse meee!
Two walnut flour dumplings pleaaase!
Yes!!
Coming right up!

REALLY?
LAST NIGHT SHE JUST SUDDENLY CAME OUT WITH IT!!
It couldn't be... Did she cut her hair because a small love of hers ended?!
SUSU
WAIT ...
THAT'S A MAJOR EVENT IN A YOUNG GIRL'S LIFE, ISN'T IT?!
AAAAAA
It's so bitter- Sweeeeet, !!
HUUH ?!
HINA CUT HER HAIR?!
Could this be that legendary
HSSSS
W-WELL I GUESS THAT'S FINE, IF YOU WANT TO.
HUH ?!
I THINK I'M GONNA CUT MY HAIR.
ONEI-CHAN
CUT

I want to cut my hair to give a proper goodbye to my childhood self

—and to take a step forward to being a new me...

Hinahhh! Oh... It's so bitter-sweet!!
One-chan feels like sugar is about to spray out of her mouth!
MY LITTLE SISTER... IS JUST BEING SO CUTE!!
AAAHH
I GUESS THIS IS YOUTH!!
IT JUST... IT JUST MAKES ME SO WORRIED! IT'S SO AWKWARD!!
A POEM LIKE THAT RUNNING THROUGH HER HEAD...
—I JUST KNOW SHE HAD
EEK
Hina will totally self-destruct you know From embarrassment
Akari? Uh...
Do NOT talk to Hina about this, okay?
I'm home!
Hiiinaahh!
How'd it go at the beauty parlor?
...HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
It was a failure...
H-HEY, NOW, LET ME SEE
I'm not going outside anymore.
I'll start high school in the second semester..
SFX DONYORI (CLOUDY)
SFX HYOI

A...
AH, HINA...?
IT-IT'S FINE...
YEAH...
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
SFX: PURU PURU (SHAKING)
YOU LOOK VERY MIDDLE SCHOOLER-LIKE
AH, WAIT,
ちんまり...
UM...
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A HIGH SCHOOLER
YEAH...
A-ANYHOW, IT TOTALLY SUITS YOU!!
I-I ASKED THEM TO GIVE ME A BOB CUT TO MAKE ME LOOK MORE ADULT...
BUT KIMURA, THE LADY I NORMALLY GET AT THE BEAUTY PARLOUR, HAD THE DAY OFF
A-AND THE ONLY ONE THERE WAS THIS OLD LADY...
Ooh!! Hina-chan a bob cut? Okay! Just leave it to me!
シャキ
SFX: SHAIIIN
SFX: CHINMARI (SCRUNCHED UP) PURUPURU (SHAKING)

The next day
OH, WHAT'S THAT?!
IS THAT HINA? I THOUGHT THAT WAS A ZASHIKI-WARASHI!!
OJII-CHAN !!
I told you not to say anything !
T/N: A ZASHIKI-WARASHI IS A CHILD-LIKE YOUKAI (DEMON) THAT OCCUPIES A HOME.
Hina-chan!! Look!!
I'M NOT A KOKESHI DOLL!!
Momo, you idiot!
Appears to be trying to encourage her
SFX: DAHHH HAHHH
OH, I CAN'T TAKE IT!
PLEASE, HINAAA!
JUST HOLD THIS FOR A SECOND, WOULD YOU?!!
Sekiyama Drops
Y-YOU, TOO, ONEE-CHAAAN ?!
I can never go outside again!
I'm living indoors from now ooooon!!
Chapter 89 END
T/N: THE DROPS ARE A REFERENCE TO THE MIYAZAKI MOVIE 'GRAVE OF THE FIREFLIES' THAT HAD A CHARACTER WITH HINA'S HAIRCUT WHO CARRIED A TIN LIKE THAT

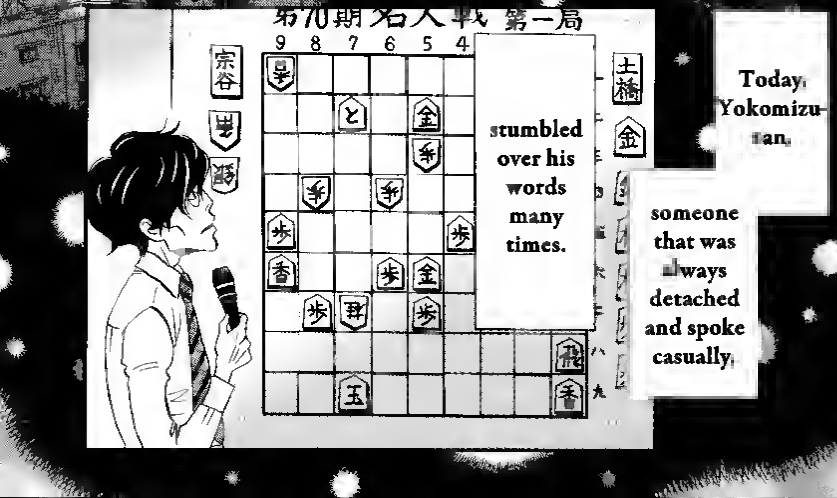
Chapter 90

The Man Called a Grim Reaper

Why is this world split into 'people who are loved' and 'people that aren't loved'?

Who split it up?

— Where did the paths diverge?



YOU TWO
REALLY SAVED ME TODAY...
SORRY ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT.
MAN, IT'S FINE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
EXCUSE MEEE! COULD YOU TAKE OUR ORDER?
Coming right uuup!
Yokomizu-san, what do you want to drink?
SORRY...
I JUST CAN'T GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS.
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING WARM, YOKOMIZU-SAN?
IT'S BEEN A LITTLE CHILLY OUT TODAY.
Like stew or oden...
SOMETHING WARM...?
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

BUT, MAN...
WHAT WAS WITH THAT GREETING THE PRESIDENT GAVE THIS AFTERNOON?
SERIOUSLY?
Today was day 2 of the first game of the Meijin Championship.
Yokomizu-san and Smith-san were doing the big board commentary
and I was called in as an assistant.
70th Period
Meijin Championship
Game
OKAY, SO LET ME INTRODUCE YOUR COMMENTATORS FOR TODAY!!
STARTING FROM THE RIGHT, WE HAVE
CLASS-DOWN!
STAG-NATING!
AAAND
CLASS-UP!
THE TRIO OF CLASS B, GROUP 2!
Uh, hey, President !!
ばーん
ザワ.ザワ...
ザワッ...
SFX: SAAAN HYOOOOO ZAWAH ZAWAH ZAWAAHH (TALKING)

SFX: GUH DONN ZUIHH SAWA SAWA SAWA (RUSTLING SAND)
Could we please have a chair?!
Excuse meee!! A chair!!
I'M THE ONE 'STAGNATING' IN CLASS B GROUP 2, SMITH!!
ドンッ!!
UH, I WAS JUST PERSONALLY INTRODUCED BY THE PRESIDENT.
WELL, MY PRESENCE IS NEEDED ELSEWHERE. GOOD LUCK WITH THE REST, FELLAS! ☆
HE CAME TODAY, DIDN'T HE...?
AND ON TOP OF THAT
THEN THAT INTRODUCTION TURNED MY HEART TO SAND
I WAS PRETTY DEPRESSED ABOUT GOING DOWN IN RANK ALREADY
ALL THE WAY BACK OF THE BIG BOARD MENU
YEAH, HE DID, ALL RIGHT

— The most shunned person in the shogi world.

'Him standing there is unlucky,' 'If he sits, it's creepy,' 'The sight of him walking is the the god of plague.'

A man that always seems to be clad in clothing of pitch-black omens.

Namerikawa Izaya 7-dan, age 35.

Yes, last month, Yokomizu-san was up against this man, Namerikawa Izaya 7-dan, in the last rank-deciding match of Class B, Group 1.

At that point in time, if you win, you stay where you are. If you lose, you fall in rank.'...

UHH...

IS IT OKAY IF I GO TO THE BATHROOM BEFORE THE POST MORTEM?

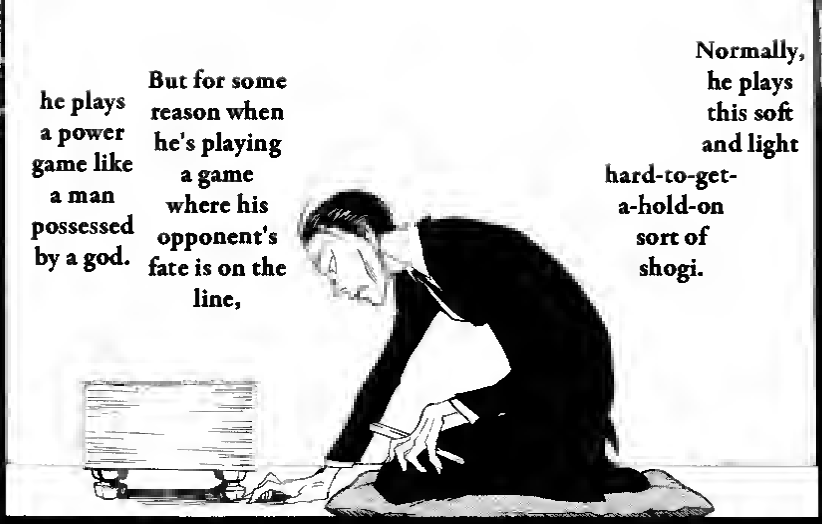
将棋会 26

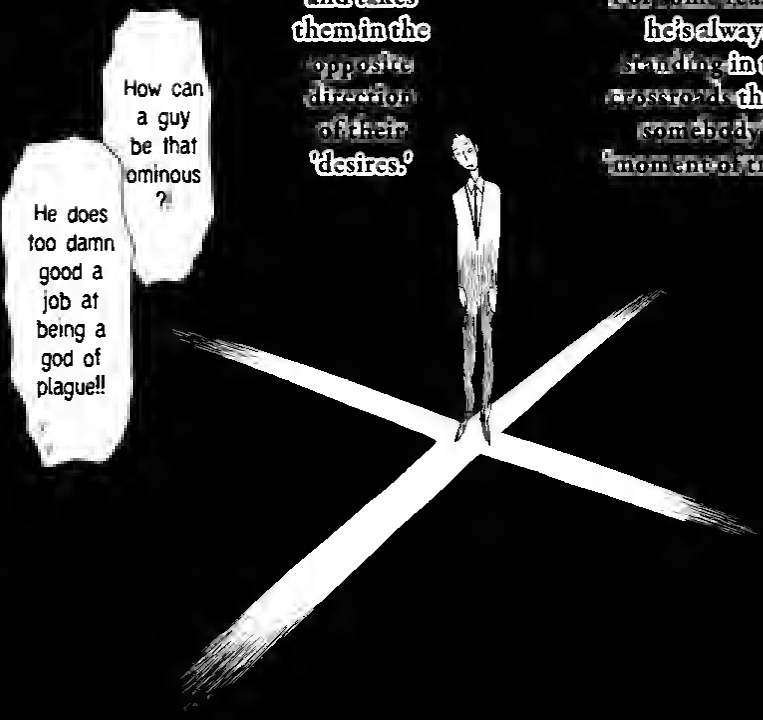
— he fell.
EXCUSE ME
I'VE BEEN HOLDING IT IN FOR QUITE SOME TIME
.....
GO AHEAD
Like he had been reeled in by the Grim Reaper.

'So now both of them are going down a rank, huh...?'
'He did a great job taking Yokomizu with him.'
'I guess he wasn't about to fall all alone...'
— 'That's the god of plague all right.'
Hm
— And
that way of losing has a lingering effect...
♫ Hm
Not being alooooone
is such a wonderful thiiing! ♫

'Yokomizu is probably gonna get shredded next period...?'
I KNOW HOW PATHETIC IT SOUNDS,
BUT JUST SEEING HIM STANDING THERE BY THE BEAM MADE ME SHIVER
IT MADE ME REMEMBER THAT LAST GAME.
AND I'VE HONESTLY BEEN FEELING AWFUL EVER SINCE THEN...
THAT GUY WHENEVER I WOULD LOOK UP DURING THE GAME
HE'D BE STARING AT MY FACE.
I JUST
SERIOUSLY, SERIOUSLY, DO NOT LIKE THAT...
IT CAME TO THE POINT WHERE THAT WAS ALL I WAS THINKING ABOUT
AND I JUST WANTED TO SCREAM.....
AGAIN AND AGAIN JUST STARING

—And it was around then
that I'd become so muddled, I was left with a board that was beyond all hope of recovery...
I GET YOU.
I FELT THE SAME WAY WHEN I PLAYED HIM...
It was 4 years ago. B-1 was finally within my grasp and my final game was against Namerikawa.
For him, it was a throwaway match,
but he twisted around me and held me back with incredible persistence.
—It's been 4 years since then.
So I've been stagnating.
Hu Hu Hu Hu Hu Hu Hu
And back then, he was staring at me like he was licking me all over...
SMITH?
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU WENT UP AGAINST NAMERIKAWA, TOO!
I see... So it's been 4 years since then, huh...?
Smith-san?


he plays a power game like a man possessed by a god.
But for some reason when he's playing a game where his opponent's fate is on the line,
Normally, he plays this soft and light hard-to-get-a-hold-on sort of shogi.


How can a guy be that ominous?
He does too damn good a job at being a god of plague!!
and takes them in the opposite direction of their 'desires.'
For some reason, he's always standing in the crossroads that is somebody's 'moment of truth'

We're talking about humans right now!!
Shut your trap, divine child!!
QUIET DOWN, VIRGIN!!
Ya think you're so great just cause you debuted in middle school!
Just eat your tsukune!!
I... I'll just eat them up!
At least let us complain!!
*The group leader at...
BUT, UM...
MY DAD TAUGHT ME THAT NO MATTER WHO YOU'RE UP AGAINST IN A MATCH,
IT'S GOOD MANNERS TO PLAY YOUR BEST AGAINST THEM...
*Ginger ale
SFX GAAAHH KIH
ENTRANCE CEREMONY?!
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, DOES IT, KIRIYAMA?
NO, UH,
SOMEBODY I KNOW IS ENTERING THE SCHOOL, SO I'M ACCOMPANYING THEM...
SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
WHAT? GOD-DAMMIT!
KIRIYAMAAAAA
SFX CLICK
IT'S A GIRL, ISN'T IT?!
THIS GUY'S CHARACTER BACKGROUND IS WAY TOO PERFECT!
AND THEY SAY HIS FACE IS TOO SINISTER SO HE WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE ELDEST BROTHER...
And on top of that, his parent's house is a 'funeral parlor', what?! Is this his thing or something?!
WHAT IS THAT GUY'S DEAL ANYHOW?! THE BLACK SUIT AND THE SLICKED BACK HAIR, JUST HOW MUCH OF A CHARACTER HAS THAT GUY GOT?!
ER...
UH I'VE UH...
GOT AN ENTRANCE CEREMONY TOMORROW, SO...

—And a few days later...
Shogi World
The 70th Meijin Championship
Souya Touji's Challenge
.....
'I really love people.'
—My parents run a small funeral parlor in town and ever since I was a grade schooler,
even now from time to time, I go there to help out.
First Long Interview
The Namerikawa Izaya 7-dan
The shogi player in the funeral attire
The man called a Grim Reaper

I don't know anything that makes me feel more 'alive' than this.
—That's why I love shogi from the bottom of my heart.
Whenever I look at people inside a casket that won't be moving around anymore,
I can't help but get ideas about 'giving it your all when you're still alive and moving...'
'I cannot help but think lovingly from the bottom of my heart about this opponent I am in a match against showing me themselves just as they are.'
'At that extreme point where nothing can be glossed over,
'Even more so when someone's fate is hanging in the balance.'
'Because a match is quite close to an exchange of lives'
—During matches, I frequently peer into the faces of my opponents, do you know why?

'As long as I can like them, that is quite enough for me to be happy.'
'Really I'm okay as long as I'm satisfied myself.'
—I'm doing it for myself.'
—That seems like something people could easily misunderstand,
how do you feel about that?
SMITH-SAN,
KIYOMIZU-SAAAN,
SFX: PATAN

— After that, the two of them,

hurled all kinds of abusive language like 'What a creepy philosophy!' and 'That smile is like something out of a horror film!'

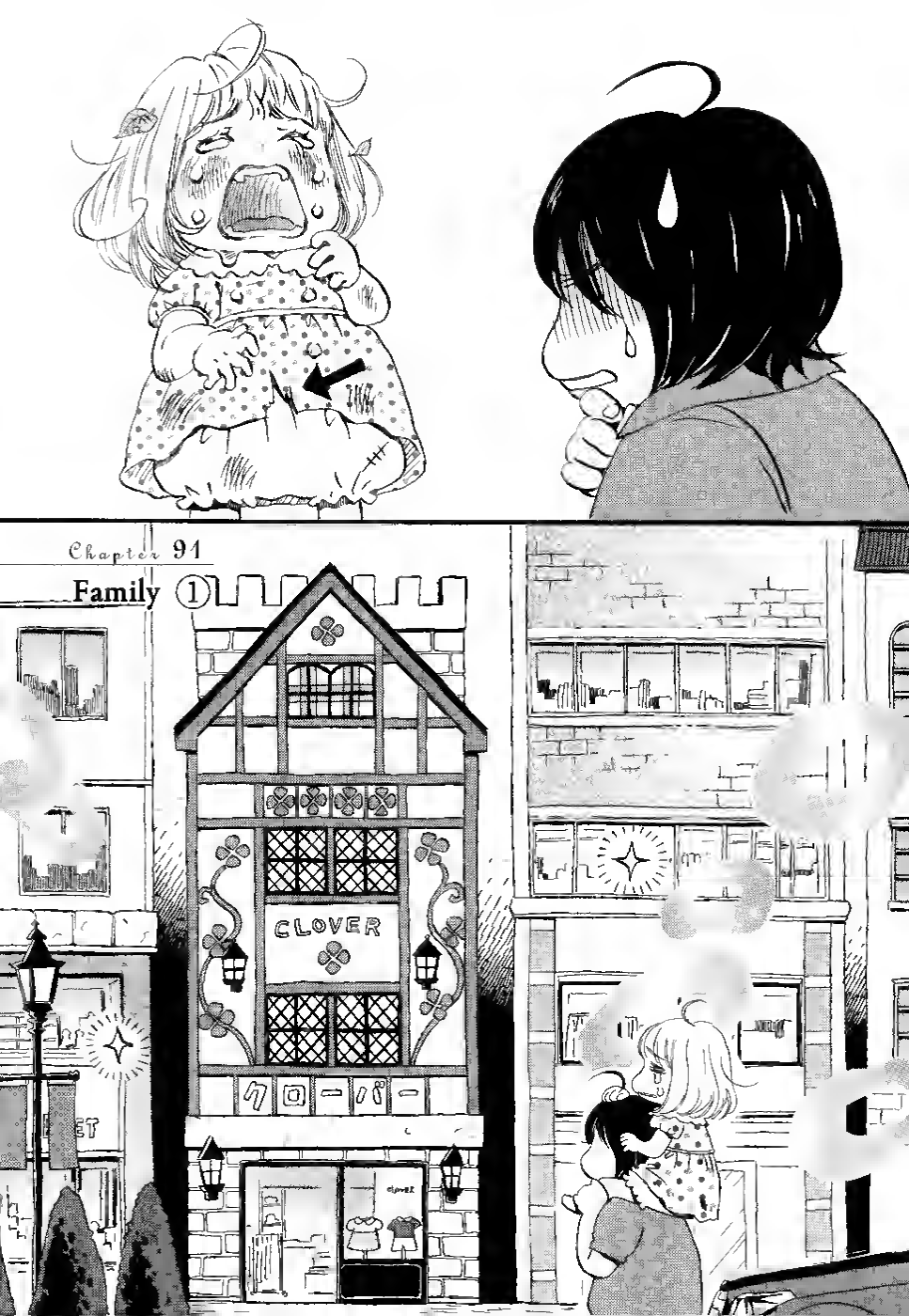
and then finally

SFX: HENA HENA HENA (SHRINKING DOWN)

— they muttered.

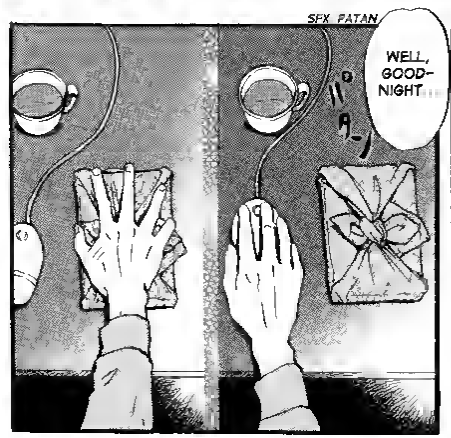
HOW ABOUT WE INVITE HIM TO DRINKS NEXT TIME ♪

Chapter 90 END


Chapter 91
Family ①
CLOVER
クローバー

KENJI.
I SAID I DELIVERED YOUR CLOTHING
TO THE FUKUOKA HAWK HOTEL.
OH,
OKAY.
THANK YOU.
SFX KACHI KACHI TATAN TAN
I'LL LEAVE YOUR LAUNDRY HERE
AH,
SFX TAN KATA KATA
OKAY
I'LL PUT IT AWAY LATER
THANKS

WHAT TIME ARE YOU LEAVING TOMORROW?
HM...
AT 10, I THINK...
I SEE.
WELL, THE BATH IS FREE, SO GO ON IN.
MOM AND DAD ARE GOING TO SLEEP NOW.
AH, OKAY


SFX: PATAN
WELL, GOOD-NIGHT...

AND HERE,
YOUR USUAL

SFX: BUH BUH BUH... (MUMBLING) KACHI KACHI (CLICK CLICK) TATAN
THANK YOU.
HOW'S KENJI?
SAME AS ALWAYS.
IS HE STILL DOING HIS RESEARCH...?
WHERE WAS THE 2ND GAME AGAIN?
FUKUOKA. THE HAWK HOTEL.
FUKUOKA...
THOSE TITLE MATCHES ARE ALWAYS HELD SO FAR AWAY, AREN'T THEY?

IT'S BECAUSE HE WON THE FIRST GAME.
—HE PROBABLY HAS A LITTLE EXTRA ENERGY.
—BUT
YOU'D THINK THAT ONCE HE'S COME THIS FAR
THE BEST THING HE COULD DO WOULD BE TO REST UP FOR THE MATCH...
HE'S QUITE SERIOUS.
OR MAYBE OBSTI-NATE...
SINCE HE WAS A KID,
WHEN IT CAME TO SHOGI, HE NEVER LISTENS.
CAN YOU BLAME HIM, DAD?
HE ONLY MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE HE HAD THAT STUBBORN-NESS.
Mhmm
NOW
ALL WE CAN DO
IS WATCH OVER HIM.

—NOW THEN, WE'LL BE COMMENCING WITH THE SEMI-FINALS
WHILE I WAS SITTING ON THE SIDE LINES
AND WHENEVER KENJI ENDED UP AGAINST HIM, HE ALWAYS ENDED UP WITH 'AH... THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE.'
—WHENEVER KENJI WON TO GET TO THE LATER ROUNDS OF A TOURNAMENT SOUYA-KUN WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE
SOUYA-KUN REAAALLY HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARY EVEN SINCE THOSE DAYS
HOW MANY TIMES DOES THIS MAKE IT THAT HE'S PLAYED SOUYA-KUN IN MEIJIN CHAMPIONSHIPS?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYMORE
EVEN SINCE HE WAS A BOY... THAT SOUYA-KUN DIDN'T GIVE UP MANY WINS...
IT MADE ME WANT TO RUN AWAY
WAPA
WAPA
KENJI IS STILL FIGHTING THAT SAME OPPONENT
AND EVEN NOW...
ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH LIKE THIS...
AS A FAMILY
IT'S SO PITIFUL...

SFX POCHI KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA POCHI
How... to grow... hair fast
AND SHE SEARCHED FOR THINGS LIKE 'HOW TO GROW HAIR FAST'...
THIS AFTERNOON, SHE SEEMED TO PRETEND I COULDN'T SEE HER AND WENT ON THE COMPUTER
SO,
HOW IS HINA DOING?
Huhu
THE MORNING OF THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS FASCINATING
KIRIYAMA-KUN CAME BY TO PICK HER UP
Hina~!
Kiriyama-kun is here to pick you up!
Heey!
If you don't come out, Kiriyama-kun is gonna be late, too!

Hinaa!
Oh, just accept how your hair looks, come on out!!
じ
It...
It's really weird, right? It's so messed up...
It It looks like a joke, doesn't it?!
I-I-I know I look like a zashiki warashi don't I?!
UWA aa~ ~N
HA WA WA
フフフ...
SFX JIIIIIIIHHH (STAAARE)

Hm.
I like it.
Huh?
Hm.
Yeah, it's good.
MHM
MHM
Really good.
SFX: GYUH
Really nice!!
Yeah, it's pretty nice!!
Huh?
Um
It totally suits you!!
Uh
Um, thank you.

HINA WAS REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT HOW SHE LOOKED,
SO I THOUGHT ABOUT EMAILING KIRIYAMA-KUN 'PLEASE DON'T MAKE FUN OF HER, TRY TO MAKE HER FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT ' BUT
... No, It's good!
I like it
Mhm mhm
I get it already!
I'm getting embarrassed
I really think it's good!!
Please that's enoooough!
SFX: SUU SUU...
I HAVE TO HAND IT TO KIRIYAMA-KUN,
HE WENT ABOVE MY EXPECTATIONS WITHOUT ME SENDING THAT EMAIL
SFX: DON DON DONYORI (HEAVY)
H-HUGGGG...
HYPERVENTILATION
OH, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD...
THAT YOUNG ANIMAL!!
—WELL WE ACTUALLY THOUGHT HINA LOOKED REALLY CUTE
SO WE MAY HAVE TEASED HER A BIT MUCH
HOHOH!!
RECONSIDERING
Holding back was really tough...
—SO WHAT ABOUT KIRIYAMA-KUN?
IS HE IN LOVE WITH HINA OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
—WHAT WITH ALL THAT WATCHING HER STUDY... AND COMING TO SEE HER...
Do you think?
SFX: SOWA SOWA... (NERVOUS)

SFX: KOKKURI (NOD)
MHM.
I THINK HE LOVES HER.
コックリ
AH, DECISIVE ANSWER.
OH, SO BITTER-SWEET...
BUT
HE LOVES ME, TOO.
H-
HUH?!
What in the world?
— BUT
HE ALSO REALLY LOVES MOMO
SHE'S A REAL APPLE OF HIS EYE

WOULD BE A NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TASK...
AT THIS POINT TO GO BACK TO SOMETHING FRAGILE LIKE ROMANTIC LOVE
IN A SINGLE BOUND, IT LOOKS LIKE HE MADE IT ALL THE WAY THERE.

YES.
'A FAMILY.'
SO A FAMILY ...?
...I SEE.

DONE!
☆
All right!
HE'D HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLE DOING THAT...
DON'T YOU THINK?

SFX ZUSHIIIN
Y-You can do portrait carving...?
Y-YOU'VE REALLY IMPROVED, AKARI.
All right!! Now we should be able to make Toudou-sama's birthday tonight! ☆
I wonder if he'll like it?
Such a resemblance!
Choice Fruit
HEEW
ぎっしーん
Happy 70th Birthday
祖母孫
I DO!
YEAH
ACTUALLY
I THINK IT'LL BRING HIM TO TEARS
(*FOR A FEW REASONS)
—This niece right here
That much?
Oh my! ☆ I'm so happy!!
is exceeding some expectations of her own—
realized the aunt, Misaki (Age 52).
Chapter 91 END

REGARDING SHOGI PLAYERS THAT ARE HARD TO DEAL WITH

There are shogi players bursting with all sorts of different personalities in 3-Gatsu no Lion But the real world of shogi is full of eccentrics, so I don't think anyone would be all that surprised.

Among the characters is Namerikawa 7-dan. Honestly, he was pretty amazing. His impact was sky high. And the quotes about him were great. 'Him standing there is unlucky', 'If he sits, it's creepy', 'The sight of him walking is the the god of plague' I was holding my stomach I was laughing so hard reading that. But then when you turn the page you learn he's a mortician. His mind is unsteady. But I was taken aback when I read the two pages of his interview. It was quite deep. "I don't know anything that makes me feel more 'alive' than this." That quote is actually something I feel all the time, so it really hit home with me.

Of course, there aren't any shogi players like this in real life. This doesn't really matter, but I heard Namekawa 8-dan mumbling about how his name was similar to Namerikawa's. I think it goes without saying that this character is a far cry from Namekawa 7-dan.

Now then, shogi is a match between two human beings, so naturally there are some players that will just have a poor affinity for certain others.... This is a delicate subject however, so even when players have had a few drinks together, this hardly ever gets talked about. From my perspective, players' perception of this is like the power of language. There's a sense that if you say something too carelessly, you can end up having bad chemistry with someone.

Of course, there are some I have bad chemistry with. But for the reason I listed above, I'm not going to name any specific names.

When you realize there is a player you just have bad chemistry with, the important thing is to be very careful that you know if it's a matter of incompatibility, or that you just lost to them because you were the weaker player. Mistaking this is simple stupidity, honestly.

So don't worry about getting along with someone or not, whoever you're up against, keep presence of mind — Unfortunately that's a pretty difficult thing to do.

◀ Is there no player that's doesn't have bad chemistry with Namerikawa?!

Chapter 92

Family ②

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

SFX TATATON TATATON
UMM
12-A
12-
SFX PAAA
SFX RURURURURURU
PLEASE WATCH FOR THE CLOSING DOORS
WE ARE LEAVING THE STATION
13 C
HEY!
Waa! Nozomi's so fast!
HEY, TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF!
AH, THERE
SATOSHI, OVER HERE

SFX TOTON TATON TATATON
THE WEATHER TODAY IS SO NICE, ISN'T IT?
Mom, can I have my lunch?
YES, YES JUST WIPE YOUR HANDS
—BUT HONESTLY,
THE WEATHER TODAY IS SO NICE, ISN'T IT?
SFX TATON TATATATON TATON TATATON
SFX TATON TATATON TATATON

Heeew! We finally made it!
FUKUOKA REALLY IS IN A CONVENIENT LOCATION, ISN'T IT?
IT TOOK LESS THAN 20 MINUTES TO GET INTO THE CITY FROM THE AIRPORT
HUH?
THAT REMINDS ME, WHERE'S DOBASHI-SAN?
WE DIDN'T SEE HIM ON THE PLANE
A SHINKAN-SEN?! WH-WH-WHY?!
OH, THAT WEIRDO TOOK A FREAKING TRAIN
A SHINKAN-SEN ☆
Wh-Wh-Why would he do that?!
OH, THAT DOBASHI-SAN
He never changes
NEVER BENDS AN INCH FROM HIS WAY OF DOING THINGS, DOES HE?
He's not good with planes
DOBASHI-SAN'S ALWAYS GONE BY TRAIN NO MATTER HOW FAR IT IS.
PROBABLY 'ROUND 5
HOW MANY HOURS IS THAT GONNA TAKE?!

— EVERY-ONE,
WE WOULD LIKE TO START THE NIGHT-BEFORE FESTIVAL
OF GAME 2 OF THE 70TH MEIJIN CHAM-PIONSHIP.
— SHIMADA 8-DAN, NIKAIDOU 5-DAN,
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO OUR MEETING FOR THE BROADCAST TOMORROW...
HEY, NIKAIDOU, THE GUY FROM THE MHK IS HERE
AH, OKAY!!
SFX: PACHI PACHI PACHI (CLAPPING)
SFX: PASHA PASHA PASHA PASHA
ONE ALWAYS TENDS TO THINK OF DOBASHI 9-DAN AS A PURIST RANGING HISHA PLAYER
YES, IT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE
WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS, GUEST SPEAKER SHIMADA 8-DAN...?
ACHIEVED VICTORY WITH AN ASTOUNDING 'CENTRAL HISHA'
IN GAME 1, THE CHALLENGER, DOBASHI-SAN,

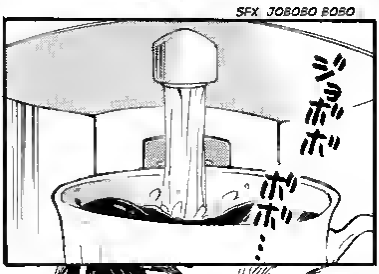
THERE HAVE BEEN THOSE THAT HAVE SAID
THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE THE ALWAYS-CAREFUL DOBASHI 9-DAN WOULD PLAY SUCH A DARING MOVE. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON THE MATTER?
—WELL, THIS IS A MEIJIN CHAMPIONSHIP.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR 'NEW IDEAS' OR 'GUTS' HERE.
I THINK HE CAME INTO THIS MATCH DETERMINED
'TO BECOME A MEIJIN THIS PERIOD.'
AND WHEN I SAW THE SIGNS OF HOW DEEP DOBASHI 9-DAN'S RESEARCH MUST HAVE BEEN
TO BE ABLE TO HYPOTHESIZE EVERY KIND OF BOARD AS THOROUGHLY AS HE SEEMS TO HAVE
SHIVERS RAN DOWN MY SPINE.
AT HOME, I TRIED
LINING UP THE PIECES QUITE A FEW TIMES.

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A 'HARD WORKER',
BUT AFTER LOOKING AT THE NOTATIONS OF DOBASHI 9-DAN'S FIRST GAME,
IT MADE ME FEEL THAT I HAD BECOME COMPLACENT IN MY OWN HARD WORK
HONESTLY NOW
I FEEL PRETTY EMBARASSED
— BUT IT'S BEEN GOOD MEDICINE FOR ME
I'M GOING TO FOCUS MY MIND AND WORK HARD THIS SEASON
.....
ANIJA...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SHIMADA 8-DAN
— NEXT WE HAVE THE ASSISTANT OBSERVER OF THE 2ND GAME, MATSUNAGA 7-DAN
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS GAME...?
HIGHLIGHT? ERR...
I'M TIRED OF LOOKING AT THIS CARD
S-SIR?

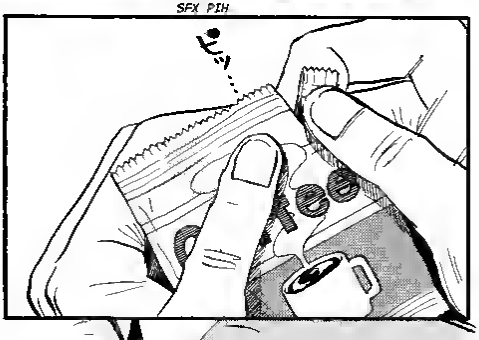
AND AT SOME POINT I TURNED INTO A GRIZZLED OLD MAN.
— BUT RECENTLY I'VE STARTED SEEIN' THE TWO OF 'EM STANDING NEXT TA EACH OTHER AGAIN
WELL... THAT DOBASHI
UNTIL NOT TOO LONG AGO I THOUGHT OF HIM AS A YOUNGSTER
Oh, I been seein' these two together a lot.
IT'S A COMBINATION THAT AIN'T CHANGED EVER SINCE THEY WERE KIDS IN GRADE SCHOOL
AND ALL A THE SUDDEN
IT WAS LIKE I WAS CONSTANTLY WATCHIN' THESE TWO DUKE IT OUT
THOUGH ALMOST ALL OF 'EM ENDED WITH SOUYA COMIN' OUT ON TOP.
Oh, it's them again ...
We need to warm it (his heart) up fast!!
EXCUSE ME! COULD WE GET SOMETHING WARM TO DRINK, PLEASE?!! RIGHT OVER HERE!!
ビュオオオオ
—Ah, but I'd take aging over going bald any day 'a the week.
I'm really gettin' on in years myself!!
Gosh, was I surprised!
UHI KAH HA AA
—That's what he said.
'I MEAN, SOME GAFFS WOULD REALLY WARM THE PLACE UP, DON'T YA THINK?!'
would be the President, of course.
...That
How are we gonna broadcast this...?
WHO WAS IT? WHO OFFERED MATSUNAGA 7-DAN THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT OBSERVER?!
SFX: BACHIN (SPARKLE)

WHEN HE WAKES UP IN THE MORNING, HE'LL EAT THE 3 ONIGIRI HE ORDERED TO HIS ROOM THE PREVIOUS NIGHT
—THEN
AND THEN DO SOME MATING-SHOGI PUZZLES TO WARM HIS MIND UP...
—IT'S LIKE CLOCKWORK !!
Mating-Shogi 3 Moves
HE NEVER EATS ANY OF THE GREAT FOOD OR USES THE BATHS,
HE'S ALL "RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH" FOR THE NEXT DAY'S GAME...
YA CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON 'IM TA DO THAT...
HE'S LONG GONE, BACK TO HIS ROOM...
HUH? WHERE'S DOBASHI 9-DAN?
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE HIM GIVE A GREETING FOR TOMORROW...
MHK
MATSUNAGA 7-DAN, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GO FOR SOMETHING JUST A LITTLE EASIER TO PUT ON THE AIRWAVES?!
Okay! ☆ Cut! ☆
That's why he's so stiff!!
I know!! There must be a robot inside that human exterior of his, right?!!
Okay! ☆ Once more from the top!
UHHHH ?!

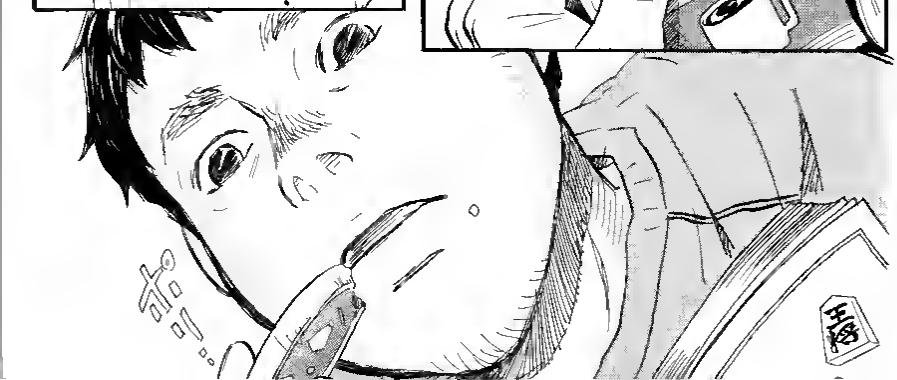
SFX PAKA



SFX JOBOBO BOBO



SFX PIH



パラ
SFX: ZAZA... ZAZAN...
SFX: PARA...
— And the first day of game 2

3-4 Fu
Sente Souya Meijin
Gote Debuchi 9-dan
7-6 Fu
2-6 Fu
Sente
SFX PASHIH
SFX PACHI
SFX PACHI
パシッ
パチ
パチ…

HOW IS DOBASHI 9-DAN GOING TO COUNTER THIS...?
HE'S GOTE THIS TIME AFTER ALL
PERHAPS A SIDE FU IS AN OPTION FOR HIM?
LET'S SEE HOW HE RESPONDS
SFX PASHIHH
パシッ!!
歩兵
歩兵
歩兵
歩兵
歩兵
歩兵
香車
桂馬
銀将
金将
...!?
HUUH?!
HE BLOCKED THE KAKU'S PATH?!

GOING FOR 'CENTRAL HISHA' EVEN AS GOTE?!
Does he know this is a Meijin championship?!
AGAINST SOUYA?!
HE JUST THREW AWAY ANY POSSIBILITY FOR HIS HEAVILY RESEARCHED STATIC HISHA!
JUST HOW MUCH DID DOBASHI-SAN RESEARCH FOR THIS ?!!
NOT ONLY HAS HE CRUSHED MY CONCEITED IDEA OF
'NOBODY BEATS ME WHEN IT COMES TO HARD WORK' TO TINY PIECES
THIS FEELS
MORE LIKE...
Haha...
someone mounting on top of you and beating you to a pulp.

Chapter 92
END

REGARDING FAMILIES THAT SUPPORT SHOGI PLAYERS

Not only for shogi players, but anyone that fights for a living, they say that the support of a close family is indispensable.

Other people's parents are very important as well, I feel. It's nice when a child that love shogi gets told by those around him that he has talent so he enters the world of pros, but the reality is that it's totally different from the showy world they observed as a fan. It's a tough, painful world. So as a parent, one must think about what to do when things go badly. Many times, or dozens of times, more than the person it's actually happening to.

Successfully becoming a pro shogi player is a relief to parents. But when they're supporting them after that, the feel of being a pro is completely different from being in the Shoureikai.

Now then, after a blooming age being single, I got married and my wife supported me in all sorts of ways. But being in the same industry, that overcomes most problems. A pro player knows how a pro player feels more than anyone, after all.

With a respectable person (this is the phrase the shogi world uses for marrying someone outside the shogi world) usually isn't used to it at first so they can feel lost. Though in my case, mine is a pro go player rather than a shogi player, so she knows what matches are like.

There are things you shouldn't do when someone has a match. There's nothing worse than getting really irritated or angry the day before a match. Yes, fights between husband and wife are the worst. And shogi is a game with a very large mental aspect.

I'm not trying to sound too high and mighty here, but there are three things shogi player wives (or husbands to female players) must never do.

Getting depressed along with them when they get bome after a loss.

Mount pressure on them to win and win.

Constantly ask about every little thing they heard in books or on the internet.

Keep those in mind.

◀ Dobashi's mom is always concerned for her son.

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chapter Um...on

Chapter 93

Bug

SENTE, 9-8 KYOU
!!
SFX: SUH
スッ…
IS HE GOING FOR A STATIC HISHA ANAGUMA ?!
SOUYA MEIJIN BROUGHT UP HIS KYOU?!
OKAY THEN, HOW WILL DOBASHI 9-DAN RESPOND?
— SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I SUPPOSE?
— HE'S RESPONDING BY SAYING 'WELL, THEN WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF I RESPOND WITH STATIC HI-ANA THAT I BARELY EVER DO?'
WELL SEEING AS DOBASHI-KUN PLUNGED IN WITH 'CENTRAL HISHA' WHICH HE'S NEVER DONE BEFORE,
HMM
ズズー
WHAT? SOUYA MEIJIN DOING STATIC HISHA ANAGUMA?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE!

SFX: SUH
DID HE EXPECT THIS REPONSE?
OOH!!
3-4 HISHA!!
3-4 HISHA...
FROM 'CENTRAL HISHA' TO 'ISHIDA STYLE'...?
HE'S GOING TO TRY TO PUT A SOLID FORMATION TOGETHER?
SO EVEN SOUYA'S STATIC HISHA ANAGUMA WAS 'WITHIN HIS HYPOTHESES'...?
SHEESH,
'JUST HOW WIDE HAS HE SPREAD AND HOW DEEP HAS HE DOVE?
This isn't normal ...!!
THIS IS GONNA BE A LONG MATCH...

T/N: MIZUTAKI IS A KIND OF HOT POT DISH IN WHICH FISH OR OTHER KINDS OF MEAT AND VEGETABLES ARE COOKED IN UNSEASONED FISH BROTH AND DIPPED IN TANGY PONZU SAUCE
The first day of the Meijin Championship's 2nd game ended with Souya Meijin making the sealed move.
— And then
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
IF IT GETS REALLY PRO-LONGED, THEN THAT MEANS
TOMORROW NIGHT'S DINNER WILL END UP BEING SAND-WICHES HERE IN THE WAITING ROOM, DOESN'T IT.....?
HUUH
HOLD ON! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT?!
HAaaaa
Did we come all the way to Fukuoka for that?!!
I was all ready to have mizutaki for dinner!
KUH ....
IT'S GONNA BE LONG...?
— THAT MEANS
We can't take our eyes off until it's done!!
From the start of the game
13 hours had passed.
Day 2.
Early evening.
D-DOBASHI 9-DAN
HE'S NOT MOVING AT ALL, IS HE?
HE'S STOCK STILL
WHAT'S WITH THE DOBASHI ROBOT?
DID HIS BATTERIES GO DEAD?
OR IS HE JUST MALFUNC-TIONING?

A long think...
—But why is he expending so much of his time here?
There shouldn't be anything here but the natural ore...Gin.
Or is he trying to get a thorough read
of how the gang will develop after this?

HE'S NOT GOING THE THE BATHROOM?
AH, HE GOT UP FROM HIS SEAT.
BUT HE'S CARRYING SO--ME-THING
WHAT'S SOUYA-SAN DOING?
WHAT?
HM?
SFX: SHUH

SFX: PASHIH
SOLIYA-SAN CAME BACK
—— AH, LOOKS LIKE
SFX: BUH BUH (MUMBLING)

with Souya Meijin's victory.
with 145 moves, the curtain came to a close on the 2nd game of the Meijin Championship.
After they had both used up their available time and were down to 1-minute shogi,
Until the endgame, the [illegible] kept swinging back and forth.

deep into the night as the 2nd day ended.
quietly continued
And the post-mortem that took place after

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
BUT AROUND 3 O'CLOCK, SOUYA-SAN LEFT HIS SEAT, RIGHT?
I COULDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT IT THROUGH THE MONITOR.
HM?
—OH YEAH, ANIJA.
WHEEEW THAT GAME WAS LONG.
BUT SO WAS THE POST-MORTEM.
MATSUNAGA-SAN WAS CRYING (HEHE)
HE YELLED "MIZUTAKI!!!! FRIED PORK LEEEG" THROUGH TEARS

.....
THERE WAS A BUG.
A LITTLE BUG...
SOUYA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT IT, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.
IT WAS PRETTY SURPRISING,
—BUT IT KINDA MADE ME HAPPY TO SEE
It was so human!!

WHEN HE WAKES UP IN THE MORNING, HE'LL EAT THE 3 ONIGIRI HE ORDERED TO HIS ROOM THE PREVIOUS NIGHT
—THEN
No, actually
AND THEN DO SOME MATING-SHOGI PUZZLES TO WARM HIS MIND UP
—IT'S LIKE CLOCKWORK!!
Souya didn't care about the bug.
I KNOW!! THERE MUST BE A ROBOT INSIDE THAT HUMAN EXTERIOR OF HIS, RIGHT?!!
Once he'd sunk that deep, everything else was blocked out.
Dobashi-san's
concentration was tremendous.

Souya ooticed that little bug

and removed it

for Dobashi-san.

— and eveo the player himself dido't realize

that was causiog problems with his thought process.

But at the edge of his vision

there was something that everyone else

— No,

for their match. For both of them.

...I the fact that I was disgracefully jealous of that.

I will take to my grave as a secret.

1PM.

WE HAVE SOME TIME. SO MAYBE WE CAN GO GET SOME SOUVENIRS AT THE AIR-PORT.

ANIJA.

WHAT TIME IS THE PLANE TOMOR-ROW?

Chapter 93 END

REGARDING SUPERSTITION

When you think of a gambler, you picture someone on edge in western clothing, a wrinkled brow, and . . . of course, superstition.

This sort of stereotypical shogi player, for the most part does not exist. They spend most of their days in t-shirts and jeans, don't have that sort of scary appearance, and yes, I believe there are very few that are superstitious. I say 'I believe' because, naturally, I don't talk about it much with other people. Much less people in the industry.

But well, no matter how you think about it, I can say that very few shogi players pay much attention to superstition, seeing as shogi is such a logical game. So most people that get into shogi have a scientific mindset. I would say that is the biggest reason.

Again, these are all my personal thoughts on the matter, but there's also the fact that we don't get injured. Whereas sports athletes are surprisingly very superstitious. It's thought that because in sports, both losing and getting injured are really awful situations. No matter how cautious you are, injury has a certain element of luck to it. This is what makes one entreaty to a deity.

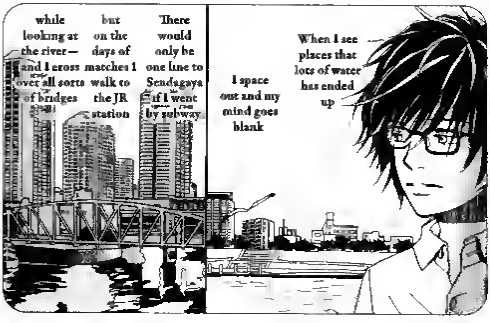
I've thought of myself as a person completely free of superstition. However, once on the morning of a match, right when I was trying to tie my necktie, an awful feeling ran through my body. I'd lost the last match I wore that necktie in. Mmm, what should I do?

After a little thinking, I decided. Like hell I was going to let some stupid superstition beat me! I'm gonna win with this necktie!

And I lost. And in my next match, I wore a different necktie. Uugh, I lost to the superstition. How mortifying.

Thinking back on it now, I was in the bottom of a slump at the time. I think I'd had around a 7-game losing streak at the time. Because of what was going on at the time, I was feeling weak-hearted, and so I came up with the idea that it was the necktie's fault I'd lost.

When things are going well, you don't pay any attentions to omens. But during times of adversity, you get concerned about dull things.


while looking at the river— and I cross over all sorts of bridges
but on the days of matches I walk to the JR station
There would only be one line to Sendagaya if I went by subway
I space out and my mind goes blank
When I see places that lots of water has ended up

'On match days, I look at the river as I walk to the JR station.' Perhaps this is a superstition of Kiriyama's.

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

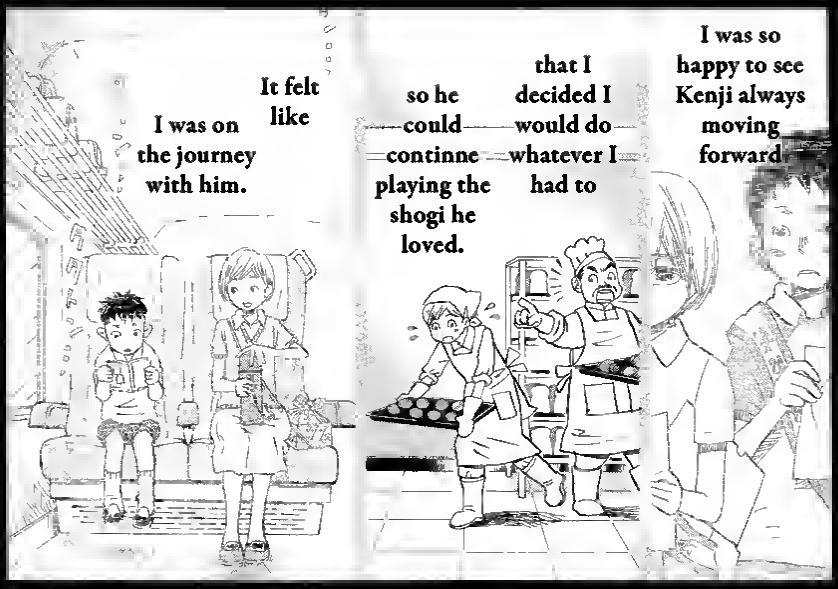
Chapter 94

Family ③

GAME 7, DAY 2
OF THE 70TH MEIJIN CHAMPION-SHIP. WE ARE NEARING THE END HERE ON VTR.
AT MOVE 150, DOBASHI KENJI HAS RESIGNED
AT THE END OF A FIERCE FULL SET OF 7-GAMES,
SOUYA MEIJIN HAS DEFENDED HIS TITLE AN ASTONISH-ING 11TH TIME
I'VE LOST
SFX PASHA PASHA
ARE YOU OKAY, MOM
TURN IT OFF DAD
SFX PI-I-I
I KNOW WE'VE SEEN KENJI LOSE BEFORE
.....
MORE TIMES THEN WE CAN COUNT, BUT...

FOR SOME REASON
THIS TIME IS ESPECIALLY HARD.
FOR A YEAR, HE PUT EVERYTHING ELSE ASIDE
AND DEVOTED HIMSELF TO STUDYING EVERY SINGLE DAY.
HE GOT THE RIGHT TO BE THE CHALLENGER IN THE MEIJIN CHAMPION-SHIP AGAIN AFTER SO LONG
AND PUSHED HIMSELF SO HARD... IT WAS SCARY JUST WATCHING HIM DO IT.
HE WOULDN'T WATCH TV OR GO OUTSIDE,
AND WHENEVER HE WAS AWAKE, HE WOULD ALWAYS HAVE RESEARCH MATERIALS IN HIS HAND EVEN IF HE WERE BATHING OR SLEEPING
—IF HE STILL COULDN'T WIN THEN,
THEN WHAT IS THERE LEFT TO SHAVE OFF?
THERE ARE ONLY 24 HOURS IN A DAY, AREN'T THERE?
—DAD,
WHAT IS THAT BOY GOING TO DO FROM HERE?
HOW IS HE GOING TO PUSH HIMSELF ANY HARDER?
AT THIS RATE...

and go to all sorts of places all over Japan.
I would go on the train with Kenji.
When he was a child,
HE'S GOING TO SHAVE HIMSELF AWAY
AND DISAPPEAR
On our way home
we would walk
When he would win, he'd be delighted
and when he lost,


I was on the journey with him.
It felt like
so he could continne playing the shogi he loved.
that I decided I would do whatever I had to
I was so happy to see Kenji always moving forward

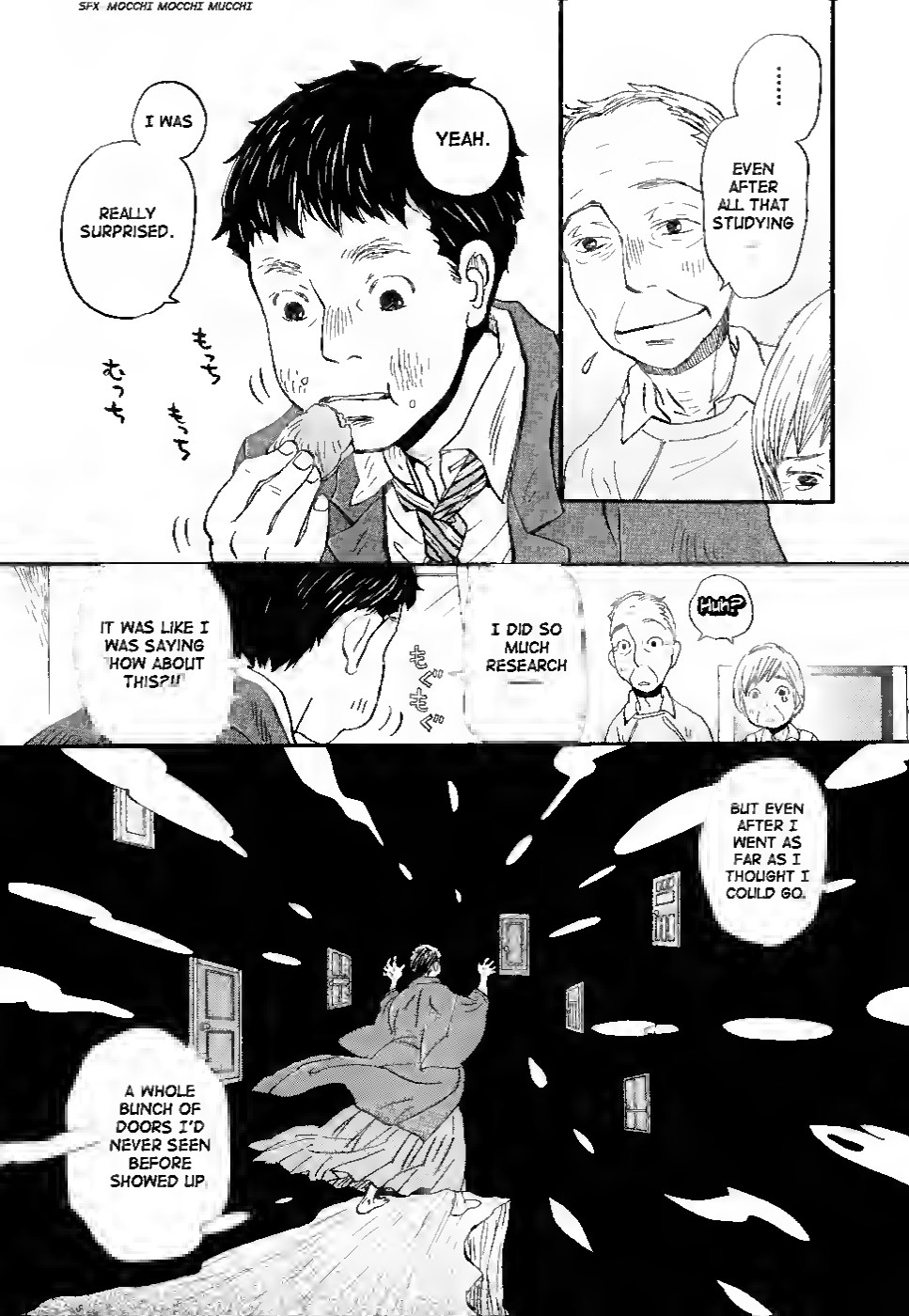
HEY... DAD.
so I never really thought about
Back then, I felt like I was in a dream

WHEN OUR BOY COMES HOME TOMORROW
how long this path would go...

WHAT SHOULD WE SAY TO HIM...?
I'M HOME.
OH, WELCOME HOME, KENJI
WHAT'S WITH THOSE BAGS?!
DOOOE
THERE SURE ARE A LOT!!
Ara Ara Ara
THERE AREN'T ANY COOL PACKS AND HE BROUGHT THEM ALL THE WAY FROM NAGASAKI?! WON'T THEY MELT?!
SFX JIWA (CRYING) PON
SFX MOSAAA DOSSARI... (HEAVY)

AH,
INARI ZUSHI!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR THAT!
KENJI
MOM
Don't cry
I BOUGHT THE MENTAIKO AND THE PORK LEG WHEN I TRANSFERRED AT HATAKA
I GOT THE KARASUMI BECAUSE I REMEMBER YOU SAYING YOU THOUGHT IT WAS DELICIOUS BEFORE...
OH, KARASUMI!! FROM TAKANODA'S!! OH, DEAR, THESE ARE EXPENSIVE, AREN'T THEY??!
And I got some fried pork leg for dad...
Even castella!!
And men taiko!
And some keiran soumen !!
SFX DOSSARI (HEAPING)

T/N KARASUMI IS SALTED MULLET ROE. KEIRAN SOUMEN IS ANGEL-HAIR NOODLES MADE OF SUGAR AND EGG YOLK. MENTAIKO IS WALLEYE POLLACK ROE. CASTELLA IS A KIND OF SPONGE CAKE.


SFX MOCCHI MOCCHI MUCCHI
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT STUDYING
.....
YEAH.
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.
もぐもぐ
むっちゃ
I DID SO MUCH RESEARCH
Huh?
IT WAS LIKE I WAS SAYING "HOW ABOUT THIS?!"
BUT EVEN AFTER I WENT AS FAR AS I THOUGHT I COULD GO,
A WHOLE BUNCH OF DOORS I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE SHOWED UP.

IT WAS PRETTY FUNNY SEEING HIS FACE,
SOUYA-KUN WAS SURPRISED, TOO
BUT WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH,
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD HOLD BACK,
BUT WE BOTH ENDED UP LAUGHING.
SO I DECIDED
NEXT TIME I'LL GO TO SOUYA-KUN'S PLACE
AND DO RESEARCH THERE
HEY, KENJI, ARE YOU GONNA EAT, TALK, OR YAWN?
PICK ONE AND STICK WITH IT!! —— ER, WAIT, SOUYA-KUN'S HOUSE?
huaa...

So we made a pact to open them together.
To the point where we're not gonna be able to get anywhere working separately.
then shogi still has tons of depth left to it.
doors we've never seen before showing up,
I just feel that if there are still
I'M GONNA NEED TO REARRANGE MY SCHEDULE AGAIN...
—— BUT RIGHT NOW I'M REALLY TIRED,
SO I'M GONNA GO TO BED.
OKAY...
UNTIL DINNER, EXCUSE ME ...
もぐ
もぐ
SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEWING)
12° ん —— ん....
11° ヒュー
SFX: ATAN POKAAAAN...

SFX: KIPPARI (FLATLY) ZUBASSU
きっぱり
Straight face
Well,
it's because the god of shogi is a woman. So of course, she picks the 'better man.'
People like Souya, or me, or me
With a straight face?!
Did he just say 'me' twice?
なばな
—First, we'll hear from the commentator, Fujimoto Kiryuu.
What do you think it was that separated a win from a loss in this 7th game?
*Kiryama
DAD
HOW ABOUT WE WATCH THE END OF YESTERDAY'S BROADCAST?
YEAH, OKAY
but he lacks the 'luck' to be a major player!!
—And I hate to say it,
He's too darn serious !!
Dobashi really lacks even a modicum of charm !!
Ya know, I've been thinkin' about this for a while now and...
SFX: KACCHIIIN @ATAH
—But,
on the other hand,
YOU BEARDED FOUR-EYED JERK!!
DAMMIT, RAIDOU !!
ガタッ
カッチーン
This Fujimoto Kiryuu is such a mean person!
HOWAWA
HOW COULD HE SAY SOMETHING SO AWFUL?!
HOW AWFUL!

70th Meijin Championship Game 7
Dobashi 9-dan showed off his truly astounding 'hard work' in every one of these 7 games!!
he made it here without needing that 'luck.'
—Players like that never have anything to do with slumps or being out of form.
If he never had 'luck' from the start, he can't lose it later on.
take a gooood luck at these seven games.
— If you want to know who to watch out for in the current shogi world.
That Dobashi man is quite a shogi player.

SFX: GULUU GULUU
ぐぅ～
AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE STILL
GOTTA WATCH OVER HIM FOR A WHILE.
SFX: GIH
GOOD HEALTH
STARTS FROM THE LEGS, THEY SAY...
YEAH.
Ugsie Sais$
.....
DAD,
HOW ABOUT WE GO FOR A WALK?
—— WE'VE GOTTA HOLD OUT OUR GOOD HEALTH ANOTHER 15 YEARS..
HE HAS TO FIND A WIFE BEFORE WE'RE GONE.
YEAH
THAT SEEMS LIKE IT COULD BE EVEN HARDER THAN GAINING THE TITLE OF MEIJIN.
OH, DAAAD!
Chapter 94 END

—FIRST, WE'LL HEAR FROM THE COMMENTATOR FUJIMOTO KIRYUU
WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS WHAT SEPARATED A WIN FROM A LOSS IN THIS 7TH MATCH?
*Kiriyama
I dunno how to say this...
The way he handled it was...
Kind of...
crude...
*The protagonist

SFX KUPI
SFX DOKYUAKYAYA GOUN GOUN
THE THING MAKING THAT ROARING SOUND IN THOSE FIRST TWO PANELS WAS MY☆NEW MIXER
WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF HAKUSENSHA READ THE AFTERWARD OF VOLUME 8, HE TOLD ME 'PLEASE, TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR FINGERS!!" (TEARS OF GRATITUDE)!!
HELLO EVERYONE, THIS IS UMINO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING LION VOLUME 9!!
I-FEEL-SO, SO THANKFUL TO ALL THESE PEOPLE THAT CAME OUT ON SUCH HOT SUMMER DAYS
AGAIN, I STARED AT EVERYONE'S BACK WITH SO MUCH HAPPINESS I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO MELT
IN THE SUMMER OF 2013, I WAS ASKED TO DO AN EXHIBITION IN NAGOYA AND KYOTO
WHEN I GET OLD AND PASS AWAY, I THINK I'D LIKE TO BE BURIED WITH THEM, BUT THERE'S OVER A HUNDRED BOOKS WORTH AND I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FIT THEM ALL INTO THE CASKET!! I'M OVERFLOWING WITH HAPPINESS!!
THE THING THAT MADE ME HAPPIEST AT THOSE EXHIBITIONS WERE THE NOTES PEOPLE LEFT.
Packed and Tight.....
UMINO AND HER HAPPY FRIENDS
Bun-chan
Juko
Betty
wachita-san
Chiyo-chan
Mamorun
SFX: DOKYUAKYAYA GOUN GOUN

I SUPPORT HIS WAIST LIKE THIS.
BUT
hahh
SFX SUHHH PA RI
THOUGH HE'S BEEN GOING LOWER AND LOWER ON HIS SCRATCHING POST
IN HUMAN YEARS, I THINK HE'S AROUND 60, BUT HE'S IN THE PEAK OF HIS CUTENESS! ☆
BUN-CHAN IS DOING WELL, TOO THOUGH HIS LEGS MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN A BIT WEAK...?
SFX YUSSA YUSSA PARI PARI PARI PARI
LIVING 'HAPPY AND HEALTHY' IS REALLY IMPORTANT, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHEN BUN-CHAN AND I HELP EACH OTHER OUT (?) LIKE THIS, WE CAN LIVE HAPPY, HEALTHY LIVES... I THINK
No! I'm not divorcing! I will not back down!!
Um Bun-chan? Could you get out of the way?
SFX BASHI BASHI
I think... I can make it!!
THERE YA GO!
LIKE THIS!! C'MON, YOU GO WAY HIGHER THAN THAT!! ☆
SFX BARI BARI BARI BARI BARI BARI BARI BARI KUIIIN YUSSA YUSSA
WITH A SLEEPING HANDSTAND OF GRATITUDE, I CONTINUE TO WORK HARD ON TO VOLUME 10.
IF YOU COULD SOMEHOW CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER ME, IT WOULD MAKE ME SO, SO HAPPY.
FROM UMINO ☆
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I REALLY HAVE TO THANK MY ASSISTANTS, MY FRIENDS, MY EDITOR, MY PRINTER, THE PEOPLE WHO WORK AT THE BOOK SHOPS AND PRINT SHOPS, SENZAKI-SENSEI, THE DESIGNERS, THE CAMERAMEN, EVERYONE WHO HAD A HAND IN THIS MANGA AND ALL OF YOU READING IT RIGHT NOW...
WITH THE NEXT ONE, 'B-GATSU NO LION' WILL FINALLY REACH 10 VOLUMES... I'VE CAUGHT UP TO MY LAST WORK, 'HONEY AND CLOVER.'
"There are too many positions where I can't sleep because of the way my legs are pointed, so I finally decided on this posture..."

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【取材協力】
日本将棋連盟 講堂

JETS COMICS 031

3月のライオン 9

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

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【著者】
羽海野チカ
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【発行人】
久保田 博

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